

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

SNAPPY FINISH

Husker defense comes
up big in 24-19 Gator
Bowl win over Georgia



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Record-Setting Season

Abdullah earns place among greats in NU history

Carries/Yards per game

Wyoming
19/114

Southern Miss
17/114

UCLA
23/98

S.D. State
15/139

Illinois
20/225

Purdue
20/126

Minnesota
19/165

Northwestern
24/127

Michigan
27/105

Michigan State
22/123

Penn State
25/147

Iowa
23/85

Georgia
27/122

Year Totals
281/1690

100-Yard Games in a Season

11 – Mike Rozier, 1983

11 – Ahman Green, 1997

11 – Lawrence Phillips, 1994

11 – Ameer Abdullah, 2013

Top 5 Rushing Seasons

2,148 – Mike Rozier, 1983

1,877 – Ahman Green, 1997

1,722 – Lawrence Phillips, 1994

1,690 – Ameer Abdullah, 2013

1,689 – Mike Rozier, 1982



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Nebraska's young defense has grown by leaps and bounds since the beginning of the season.

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TWO-MINUTE DRILL

BY **CHRIS PETERS, LANNY HOLSTEIN, MICHAEL BRUNTZ, MICHAEL SCHAEFER**

Nebraska's offensive line bands together through injuries, NU's younger players made an impression on scout team and Terry Joseph leaves for A&M.

2013 FOOTBALL RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
AUG. 31	WYOMING	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7P.M.	W, 37-34
SEPT. 7	SOUTHERNMISS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	5P.M.	W, 56-13
SEPT. 14	UCLA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	L, 41-21
SEPT. 21	SOUTHDAKOTA STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 59-20
OCT. 5	ILLINOIS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	W, 39-19
OCT. 12	@PURDUE	WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.	11A.M.	W, 44-7
OCT. 26	@MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	11A.M.	L, 34-23
NOV. 2	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 27-24
NOV. 9	@MICHIGAN	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	2:30P.M.	W, 17-13
NOV. 16	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	L, 41-28
NOV. 23	@PENN STATE	UNIVERSITY PARK, PA	2:30P.M.	W, 23-20OT
NOV. 29	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	L, 38-17
JAN. 1	@GATOR BOWL VS. GEORGIA JACKSONVILLE, FLA.		11A.M.	W, 24-19

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

Nathan Gerry (25), Mohammed Seisay (4), Leroy Alexander (18) congratulate Josh Mitchell (5) on his fumble recovery of a muffed punt by Georgia in the Gator Bowl. The Huskers capitalized on this turnover and another interception by Mitchell to score 14 points in the 24-19 win over the Bulldogs.

PHOTO BY ADDISON FITZGERALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

From the Editor

BY DARREN IVY
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HUSKERS ALL SMILES AFTER FIRST BOWL WIN SINCE 2009

A PERSON ON FACEBOOK COMMENTED AFTER NEBRASKA'S 24-19 VICTORY OVER GEORGIA IN THE GATOR BOWL THAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW NEBRASKA HEAD COACH BO PELINI HAD SUCH WHITE TEETH.

Pelini hasn't shown off those pearly whites much this tumultuous season, which had some ups, but more downs. However, he was all smiles after his team's 24-19 victory over No. 22 Georgia on Jan. 1 at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Fla.

Pelini's smiles were probably because the catalyst for the victory and his happiness was none other than his passion - defense - which had been much maligned early in the 2013 season after being torched by several non-conference opponents.

Twice in the fourth quarter of the Gator Bowl, Georgia trailed 24-19 and drove inside the Nebraska 20-yard line with a chance to score the go-ahead touchdown. Many thought, it was about to be another bowl game breakdown and a fourth-consecutive bowl game loss for Pelini and his troops. Last year, Nebraska had been tied with mighty Georgia going into the fourth quarter only to be outscored 14-0 in the 45-31 loss.

However, this year was different as both times, Nebraska's defense rose up and made key fourth-down stops to preserve the first win over an SEC foe in NU's last five tries and improve the Huskers to 9-0 in their last nine games decided by six points or less.

Perhaps the most notable feat Nebraska accomplished on Jan. 1 was winning its ninth game for the sixth-straight season under Bo Pelini. In FBS ranks, only Oregon and Alabama have achieved nine wins or more in each of the last six seasons.

Even more impressive is that Pelini joins former Oklahoma head coach Barry Switzer and former Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne as first-time coaches who have won nine games or more in their first six seasons. Those same two coaches plus five others have won nine games or more in their first six years at a school.

At Nebraska, Bob Devaney won nine or more in his first five seasons in Lincoln, but



then went 6-4 in back-to-back seasons in 1967 and 1968. You better believe he was feeling the pressure and there were calls for his job, but he survived and went on to lead NU to national titles a short time later in 1971 and 1972.

Those 6-4 seasons were the last time NU failed to win at least nine games until 2002, when the Huskers went 7-7 under Frank Solich. Three times - 2004, 2005 and 2007 - under head coach Bill Callahan, NU failed to reach nine wins, but since Pelini took back over the program, it has been building momentum. Many forget there were a lot of smiles those first couple years in the Big 12.

Pelini's numbers don't lie, even if there is a faction of Nebraska fans who want him and his large salary gone because he hasn't delivered an overall conference title, has had some questionable behavior and actions and still hasn't gotten NU back in the national title discussion.

First-year Nebraska athletic director Shawn Eichorst recognized Pelini's achievements by giving him and the football program his seal of approval, despite a 17-point loss to Iowa in the regular-season finale and three other double-deficit losses this season. He recognized that Pelini had taken a young defense and improved them throughout the season and overcame the loss of a three-year starting quarterback and numerous offensive linemen.

Pelini didn't make excuses for the injuries, but he did look worn out by the end of the season - probably from his own pressure he puts on himself to win plus the outside pressure. The time off and win seemed to give him a fresh outlook. Hopefully, there will be more smiles from Pelini and Nebraska fans in the coming year.



Behind the N

Fun despite limited sun

PHOTOS BY ADDISON FITZGERALD



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Rod Oconner, Bobbie Kid, Carrie Oconner, Colin Dobbs, Jimmie Renfrow and Josh Patterson pose for a photo. Jimmy Citrano, Andrew Clifford, Michael Leonard. Cal Leonard of Jacksonville, Fla. throw the bones. Larry Chapek, Kelsey Chapek and Nancy Chapek pose with the Jaguar statue. They came to game to support their son #51 Brandon Chapek. Cliff Aifman, Bill Parker, Cindy Parker and Pam Aifman tailgate before the game. Super fan Hayden Vanderheiden dressed in all black. Connie Uden, Joeline Schafer, Kathy Bergstrom, Kay Kinsey, Gary Bergstrom, Jerry White, Rebecca White, Mike Rasmussen, Peggy Rasmussen, Elaine Miller and Joe Hosselgasset traveled from Iowa and Nebraska with a group on a tour bus on an 8-day trip stopping in Nashville and Atlanta. NU goalie Emma Stevens, Phil Sirles and Nora Sirles came to watch their boyfriend and son play his final game. A couple girls stop to look at the Husker hats worn by Drew Vandemore and Ross Vandemore, who are the sons of former NU All-American volleyball player Tisha (Delaney) Vandemore. Family and friends of former NU football player Brian Edgren ('86-89) pose for a photo. Betsy Miller, Keith Southworth, Pam Southworth, Nate Uber, Megan Southworth, Shannon Moudy, mother of No. 74 Mike Moudy, David Moudy, Ron Huffman, Camille Uber, Tim Herold, Janet Harold, Kathy Huffman, Tony Uber and Carol Uber pose. Huffman shows off his national champion tattoo.

Nebraska limits turnovers in bowl win

STORY BY LANNY HOLSTEIN | PHOTO BY ADDISON FITZGERALD

After coming into the game 117th nationally in turnover margin (-10) mostly because of its 29 offensive errors, the Huskers flipped the script on the Bulldogs en route to a 24-19 win Wednesday.

Nebraska forced Georgia into two turnovers of its own and scored 14 points off of those plays, but the real improvement Nebraska made on the concerning regular season trend came from holding onto the ball on its own end. The Huskers recovered their only fumble against the Bulldogs and quarterback Tommy Armstrong's 3rd quarter interception was their only miscue.

"A big part of winning a game like this is not turning the football over," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said after the game. "We did a good job in that area. That ended up winning the football game. That was the difference."

Nebraska receiver Quincy Enunwa said he and his teammates have been working on ball security all year long, and it was good to see it finally pay off on the field.

"Yeah, we've had a pretty rough season in the turnover category," he said. "It was just nice to be on the other end. I was really proud of the defense, how well they played, and special teams, that was a huge play by I think it was Josh to go pick up that fumble."

Fumbles had been a problem all year for Nebraska, accounting for 16 of the 29 Nebraska turnovers this season, but running back Ameer Abdullah was secure with the ball, and Armstrong, who ran it 10 times as well, didn't lose the rock either.

When Armstrong did leave a pass behind his receiver on Nebraska's first drive of the third quarter, Georgia swooped in and picked it off, leading to a Georgia touchdown, but Nebraska had built itself a lead at that point that it wouldn't relinquish.

Armstrong went 6-of-14 on the day for 163 yards and a pair of touchdowns to lead the offense. After the game, Enunwa, whom Armstrong hooked up with for the longest pass play in NCAA history (99 yards), said he thought the young quarterback brought his best game to Jacksonville.

"I saw a lot of growth," Enunwa said. "He was playing really well. Actually I won't say it was surprising because he



Tommy Armstrong Jr. hands the ball to Ameer Abdullah to set up his touchdown run. Neither Abdullah nor Armstrong lost any fumbles in the Gator Bowl.

practiced well."

The play that will go down in the history books started from Nebraska's own goal line. After nearly taking a sack in his own end zone for a safety, Armstrong was asked to get the Huskers out of their own end on third down and 14.

"We saw that they put everybody up there," Pelini said. "Even more so before the timeout happened. We kicked around a couple different ideas of what to do, whether we were going to sneak it, or try to get some room to punt it. We had a couple different play calls in mind."

The Huskers elected to heave it long, and Enunwa found himself running free in the Georgia secondary.

"I knew either myself or Kenny was going to come up with a big play," Enunwa said. "They play cover two, so I was able to get into the hole. Tommy launched it out to me. From then on, I tried to make a play as best as I could."

After all was said and done, Nebraska racked up 307 yards of total offense, including 122 from Abdullah on the ground, but the 99-yard play and Nebraska's ball security was the difference.

Defense stands strong in key situations

Jason Ankrah sacks Georgia quarterback Hutson Mason during the Gator Bowl.



STORY BY LANNY HOLSTEIN | PHOTO BY ADDISON FITZGERALD

It all came down to the defense Wednesday. After three and a half quarters of muddy, rainy slugfest football, Nebraska was up 24-19 with just over seven minutes to go and desperately needed to hold on.

They needed to hold on for their coach and for their program. Another offseason of negativity would surely follow Nebraska's fourth-straight bowl loss, and since coming up with a miraculous, 99-yard touchdown pass midway through the third quarter, the offense had gone dormant.

It all came down to the defense, and on this day they came through with a pair of red zone stops in the game's final seven minutes to seal it.

First, Georgia made it to the Husker 14 before safety Corey Cooper knocked the ball out of a Georgia receiver's hands on fourth down, and then it was a drop from Bulldogs tight end Arthur Lynch on another fourth down that sealed the win for Nebraska.

Defensive lineman Vincent Valentine,

who played a key role in Nebraska's consistent pass rush, said he tried to rally the troops before the final, decisive stop.

"I just told my guys, this is on us," the lineman said. "No matter what they do, no matter what the offense does, if we stop them, we get the win."

It was a "bend but don't break" effort from the Husker defense all game long. The decisive stops at the end of the game were two of six times Nebraska denied Georgia after allowing it to get to the Nebraska 21 yard-line or closer.

Georgia racked up 416 yards on the day, but time after time had to settle for field goals. Star running back Todd Gurley, in his first game back from injury, only ran for 86 yards as part of a 96-yard Bulldog rushing effort.

"I think the real key was playing physical at the point of attack," Valentine said of what Nebraska did to slow Gurley down. "I feel like we were really strong coming off the ball and getting penetration, getting free in the backfield. We just had a good time out there flying around and stopping the run."

Gurley did tack another 97 yards to his total in receptions, but Nebraska defensive end Jason Ankrah also thought the Huskers held the back in check.

"It was very important because he's a dominating back," Ankrah said. "We knew not having him going north and south was going to lead to success for our game. We forced him east and west and had people able to rally to the football. It showed up."

As if the Husker defense didn't have enough to play for with the challenge of facing Gurley, they received an added bit of motivation from the trash talk that Georgia was spewing. At one point the animosity came to a head with players rushing the field and bit of pushing and shoving.

"I think it got everybody fired up," Valentine said. "You see guys throwing shots at our guys, and you want to be out there. I wasn't on the field, but I wanted to run out there and help our guys. When you see that, you want to defend your turf. We could have done it after the whistle, but I think we did it between the whistles and came up with the win."

Huskers top Bulldogs in game of inches

Nebraska seniors pick up first bowl victory, Pelini wins nine again

STORY BY CHRIS PETERS | PHOTO BY ADDISON FITZGERALD

Nebraska's 24-19 rematch win against Georgia in the Gator Bowl came down to an inch. The Huskers led by five points late in the third quarter when quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. mishandled a snap that was off by just an inch. He scrambled, evading defenders and trying to stay out of the end zone. His outstretched arm took the ball from the end zone one inch past the goal line, preventing a safety.

One play later, instead of inching forward to spare a few feet for punter Sam Foltz, Armstrong stepped back, his back foot a few inches from the back line, and heaved a deep pass to senior receiver Quincy Enunwa.

He was wide open down the left sideline. A Georgia safety dashed over to Enunwa, but his tackle missed by a few inches when Enunwa spun.

Not another finger would touch him. An inch shy of 100 yards, Enunwa's TD broke three school records, a Gator Bowl record and a modern-era NCAA record. His 12th touchdown catch of the year topped Heisman winner Johnny Rodgers for the most in a single season at Nebraska.

"That was a huge play," coach Bo Pelini said. "It was like 99.9 (yards) too. There will never be a longer play in college football than that one."

The Huskers had a 12-point lead, but would need every second and every inch to fend off the Bulldogs.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, two plays after the lone Husker turnover of the game, Georgia running back Todd Gurley caught a wide-open slant route for a 25-yard touchdown.

The Husker offense stalled three times while the Blackshirts kept Georgia at bay. But as the clock wound down, Georgia found a way to get into field goal range.

All game long, All-SEC kicker Marshall Morgan had been automatic, hitting field goals from 38, 28, 38 and 30 yards. But the 'Dawgs needed a touchdown.

All eyes went to Gurley. Georgia's record-setting quarterback, Aaron Murray, was injured, as were two of the team's top receiving threats. Gurley was the guy, it was no secret.

"He's a dominating back," Nebraska de-



Nebraska coach Bo Pelini smiles as he accepts the Gator Bowl trophy.

fensive end Jason Ankrah said. "They use him not only in the run game but in the pass game as well. We knew in our gameplan that him not going North-to-South would be important to the success of the game."

On third down, Gurley took a handoff and tore through the Husker front seven. A soggy field kept him from digging in a good cut, leaving room for safety Corey Cooper to pull his ankles out from under him 36 inches short of a first down.

Thirty-one seconds remained. A touchdown would leave Nebraska with a worthless clock and an insurmountable distance. The game would be over.

Replacement quarterback Hutson Mason stepped back for Georgia. Gurley – the team's leading rusher and receiver – didn't touch the ball. Instead, Mason looked for tight end Arthur Lynch, the team's go-to target in the first half.

But the Blackshirts looked first at Gurley. Lynch shook free of linebacker David Santos. A first down was imminent. A touchdown likely.

Mason's pass hit Lynch in between both palms. But Lynch's grip failed. The ball fell to

the turf. Nebraska senior Brodrick Nickens readied the Gatorade for coach Pelini on the sidelines.

Unsurprisingly, Enunwa won the game's MVP award with 4 receptions for 129 yards and 2 TDs. Running back Ameer Abdullah led the team with 122 yards and a TD.

Defensively, early heroics by cornerback Josh Mitchell earned Nebraska its first positive turnover margin since October, as he fell on a fumbled punt in the second quarter and grabbed an interception early in the third quarter. After his two turnovers, the Huskers led 17-9.

Although Gurley had his moments, the Georgia feature back notched only two runs of more than seven yards.

In a game of inches, Gurley's Bulldogs couldn't get the inches they needed to get past the Huskers a second time.

For Pelini, the game means a sixth consecutive nine-win season. For the seniors, it means their first bowl win at Nebraska.

For Enunwa, it means a fond farewell.

"To end a season with a win, it's a great feeling," Enunwa said. "There's not too many words than can describe this feeling."

SUMMARY

SCORING

January 1, 2014
EverBank Field, Jacksonville, Fla.
Attendance: 60,712

	1	2	3	4	F
GEORGIA	0	9	3	7	19
NEBRASKA	0	10	14	0	24

	GA	NU
Q2 10:37 GA - Marshall Morgan 38 yd field goal 12:38 5:05	3	0
9:05 NEB - Enunwa, Quincy 5 yd pass from Tommy Armstrong Jr. (Smith, Pat kick) 2-14 0:32	3	7
6:53 GA - Marshall Morgan 38 yd field goal 7-41 2:03	6	7
3:18 NEB - Pat Smith 46 yd field goal 9-48 3:28	6	10
00:00 GA - Marshall Morgan 38 yd field goal 9-54 3:12	9	10
Q3 10:08 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 1 yd run (Smith, Pat kick), 7-38 3:35	9	17
06:32 GA - Marshall Morgan 30 yd field goal 10-62 3:36	12	17
4:58 NEB - Enunwa, Quincy 99 yd pass from Tommy Armstrong Jr. (Smith, Pat kick) 3-95 1:14	12	24
Q4 14:49 GA - Gurley, Todd 25 yd pass from Hutson Mason. (Marshall, Morgan kick) 7-39 2:14	19	24

TEAM STATS

	NEBRASKA	GEORGIA
FIRST DOWNS	14	22
Rushing	7	6
Passing	5	15
Penalty	2	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	144	96
Rushing Attempts	43	43
Average Per Rush	3.3	2.2
Rushing Touchdowns	1	0
Yards Gained Rushing	168	134
Yards Lost Rushing	24	38
NET YARDS PASSING	163	320
Completions-Attempts-Int.	6-16-1	21-39-1
Average Per Attempt	10.2	8.2
Average Per Completion	27.2	15.2
Passing Touchdowns	2	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	307	416
Total offense plays	82	82
Average Gain Per Play	5.2	5.1
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	3-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	6-50	7-42
PUNTS-YARDS	7-271	4-151
Average Yards Per Punt	38.7	37.8
Net Yards Per Punt	36.3	37.8
Inside 20	2	3
50+ Yards	1	0
Touchbacks	1	0
Fair catch	2	4
KICKOFFS-YARDS	5-327	5-310
Average Yards Per Kickoff	65.4	62.0
Net Yards Per Kickoff	36.8	44.0
Touchbacks	2	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	1-3-0
Average Per Return	0.0	-3.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	5-90-0	3-93-0
Average Per Return	18.0	31.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-4-0	1-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Possession Time	26:36	33:24
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 13	7 of 19
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	2 of 4
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	4-6
Touchdowns	2-2	1-6
Field goals	0-2	3-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-31	1-8
PAT Kicks	3-3	1-1
Field Goals	1-1	4-4

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

GEORGIA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Gurley, Todd	21	86	0	86	0	16	4.1
Green, J.J.	6	26	7	19	0	8	3.2
Douglas, Brendan	6	11	3	8	0	4	1.3
Faton, Bauta	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0
Mason, Hutson	9	10	28	-18	0	6	-2.0
Totals	43	134	38	96	0	16	2.2

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Hutson, Mason	21-39-1	320	2	48	3
Douglas, Brendan	0-0-0	0	0	0	1
Totals	21-39-1	217	2	48	4

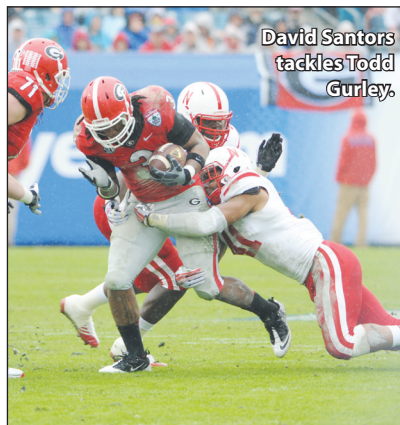
RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Gurley, Todd	7	97	1	30
Lynch, Arthur	6	69	0	18
Conley, Chris	3	46	0	29
Bennett, Michael	2	55	0	48
Douglas, Brendan	1	37	0	37
Rumph, Jonathon	1	9	0	9
Green, J.J.	1	7	0	7
Totals	21	320	1	48

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Erickson, Adam	4	151	37.8	39	3	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Greens, J.J.	0	0	0	3	93	48	0	0	0
Wiggins, Shaq	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Davis, Reggie	1	-3	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Morgan, Marshall	2nd	10:37	38 yds	Good
Morgan, Marshall	2nd	06:53	28 yds	Good
Morgan, Marshall	2nd	00:00	38 yds	Good
Morgan, Marshall	3rd	06:32	30 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
84 Floyd, Leon.	7	1	8	-	1-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
59 Jenkins, Jord.	6	1	7	1-8	1-8	1	-	-	-	-	1
20 Mauger, Quin.	6	0	6	-	1-6	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Wilson, Ramik	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
56 Smith, Garr.	4	1	5	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
52 Herrera, Am.	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39 Moore, Corey	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
47 Drew, Ray	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
93 Mayes, Chris	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38 Rankin, Ryne	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42 Kimbrough, T.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Swann, Dam.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1N Connor, Nor.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50 O'Neal, John.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Wiggins, Shaq	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-



NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Abdullah, Ameer	27	122	0	122	1	14	4.5
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	10	39	13	26	0	24	2.6
Westerkamp, Jordan	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
Turner, Jamal	1	2	0	2	0	2	2.0
Cross, Imani	1	2	0	2	0	2	2.0
TEAM	2	0	5	-5	0	0	-2.5
Enunwa, Quincy	1	0	6	-6	0	2	-6.0
Totals	43	168	24	144	1	24	3.3

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	6-14-1	163	2	99	1
Kellogg III, Ron	0-2-0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6-16-1	163	1	99	1

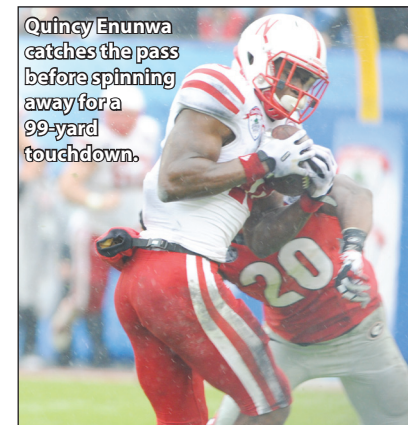
RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Enunwa, Quincy	4	129	2	99
Bell, Kenny	1	11	0	11
Carter, Cethan	1	23	0	23
Totals	6	163	2	99

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Foltz, Sam	7	271	38.7	54	2	1

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Bell, Kenny	0	0	0	4	72	31	0	0	0
Mitchell, Josh	2	-4	0	0	0	0	1	4	4
Abdullah, Ameer	0	0	0	1	18	18	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Smith, Pat	2nd	03:18	46 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
6 Cooper, Corey	10	0	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Rose, Michael	6	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
53 Randle, Thad	4	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41 Santos, David	5	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
16 Jean-Baptiste	5	1	6	1-3	2-7	-	-	-	1	-	-
11 Green, Andrew	4	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
1C Alexander, Le.	5	0	5	0-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44 Gregory, Ran.	3	2	5	1-7	2-10	-	-	-	-	-	1
9 Ankrah, Jason	3	2	5	2-21	2-21	-	-	-	-	-	2
13 Anderson, Za.	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Mitchell, Josh	2	0	2	-	-	-	1-0	1-4	-	-	-
96 Curry, Aaron	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Williams, Au.	1	0	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
37 Bondi, Mauro	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 Gerry, Nathan	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98 Valentin, Vin.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7A Collins, Maliek	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Evans, Ciente	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
90 McMullen, Gr.	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1



RUSHING OFFENSE: Ameer Abdullah went over the 100-yard mark once again, rushing for 122 yards on 27 carries. It was a tough day for running. Footing wasn't the best and got progressively worse throughout the day. I was a little surprised by how little Nebraska went to the option look -- a slick ball likely contributed to that line of thinking -- but the Huskers had the edge when they did try to run option. Part of the reason for the downgrade here is Nebraska's inability to move the ball late in the game when it needed to chew clock. Nebraska's three drives in the fourth quarter ended with punts. Nebraska seemed to be controlling the line of scrimmage for the most part, but didn't grind out the yards it needed. – *Michael Bruntz*

B-

PASSING OFFENSE: It's not often that a team earns this kind of grade when it only completes six passes, but wet conditions contributed to drops and missed passes. We'll grade on a bit of a curve here because Armstrong did hit the huge 99-yard touchdown pass to Quincy Enunwa in the third quarter that put Nebraska ahead for good. Armstrong threw other good passes as well, but Enunwa had a key drop in the fourth quarter that would have given Nebraska a first down, and Jamal Turner, finally back on the field after missing most of the second half of the season, dropped a sure touchdown in the back of the end zone. – *Michael Bruntz*

C+

RUSHING DEFENSE: Todd Gurley ran for 86 yards on 21 carries against Nebraska, but it seemed as though all day the Husker defense was the aggressor on the line of scrimmage. The problem for Nebraska all year had been giving up yardage on first down. In the Gator Bowl, Georgia averaged just 2.2 yards per rush as a team and Gurley had just 49 yards through three quarters. Give credit here to Nebraska's front four for mucking things up in the middle. Thad Randle and Jason Ankrah both played solid final games in Husker uniforms, and the linebackers cleaned up tackles when they needed too. Corey Cooper and Andrew Green also deserve credit. Both were crashing the line of scrimmage hard and laying a lick when they made contact. On a sloppy game, Nebraska played clean defense. – *Michael Bruntz*

A

PASSING DEFENSE: It didn't feel this way, but Georgia quarterback Hutson Mason finished 21-of-39 for 320 yards and a touchdown. Mason tacked on a good amount of his yardage in the fourth quarter, but was never able to come up with big, game-changing plays in the passing game. A good amount of his damage, especially in the first half, was on checkdowns to running back Todd Gurley and tight end Arthur Lynch. Wide receiver Chris Conley, who scored twice last year against Nebraska, had three catches for 46 yards. Nebraska was able to keep Mason uncomfortable in the pocket, and Josh Mitchell's interception in the third quarter gave Nebraska's defense the boost it needed after halftime. – *Michael Bruntz*

B-

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: It was once again an up-and-down day for Nebraska's special teams units, but the group played steadily despite tough conditions. The Huskers recovered a muffed punt that set up the team's first score. Pat Smith booted a 46-yard field goal in the second quarter. The day wasn't without mistakes for Nebraska's special teams units. Stanley Jean-Baptiste had a block-in-the-back penalty that backed Nebraska up into its own end, and Sam Foltz's shanked punt in the first quarter put Nebraska in a tough spot with field position early on. – *Michael Bruntz*

B-

Quoting freshman QB Tommy Armstrong Jr.



On his 99-yard touchdown throw to Quincy Enunwa:
"I knew I had him, I was nervous because the ball was so high and it was slippery out there, but Q made a play and it ended up being a touchdown."

PHOTO BY ADDISON FITZGERALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

GameNotes &



COURTESY OF NU MEDIA RELATIONS

PELINI IN ELITE COMPANY

The bowl win gives Bo Pelini nine wins in each of his first six seasons. He joins Tom Osborne (pictured above in his first season as head coach in 1973) and Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer as the only first-time head coaches to achieve that feat.

Pelini joins Osborne, Switzer and five other coaches as the only coaches who won at least nine games in each of their first six seasons at a school.

The Nebraska program is one of only three programs in the country with nine wins or more in each of the last six seasons. Oregon and Alabama are the others. The Huskers have won nine or more games in 41 of the past 45 seasons.

ENUNWA REWRITES NEBRASKA RECORD BOOKS

Quincy Enunwa's 99-yard third quarter touchdown catch broke three school records, a Gator Bowl record and an NCAA modern-era record.

The touchdown was his second of the game and his 12th of the season, passing Johnny Rodgers for the most in a single season at Nebraska. The 99-yard touchdown is the longest play from scrimmage in NU history, passing Eric Crouch's 95-yard run and a 95-yard pass between Fred Duda and Freeman White in 1965. The play counts as the longest play in Gator Bowl history and technically ties all other 99-yard plays as the longest pass play in NCAA modern history.

Coach Bo Pelini said the record couldn't have

gone to a more deserving player, as he said Enunwa is a hard worker who got what he deserved with the record.

"Quincy's gonna have a great career on Sundays," Pelini said. "... whoever gets him at that next level is gonna be lucky."

Enunwa finished the season with touchdown catches in 9 of Nebraska's 13 games.

SENIORS END BOWL DROUGHT

Nebraska's seniors hadn't won a bowl game until the Gator Bowl. Losses to Georgia (2013 Capital One Bowl), South Carolina (2012 Capital One Bowl) and Washington (2010 Holiday Bowl) left the seniors hungry for a win. The Huskers managed a 5-point win over the Bulldogs, improving to 5-0 in games decided by 7 points or fewer this season—a stat that leads the country (tied with Auburn and Fresno State). The team has won nine consecutive games decided by 7 points or less.

Nebraska's win evened the school's all-time bowl record to 25-25 in the school's 50th game. The Huskers improved to 13-7 all-time against SEC teams in bowl games.

HUSKER STANDOUTS MAKE THEIR MARK

Junior I-back Ameer Abdullah's 122 rushing yards against Georgia rank him among some of the best all-time Cornhuskers.

His 122-yard game gives him 1,690 yards rushing on the season, the fourth-most in NU history. His 11 100-yard rushing games tie a school record held by Mike Rozier, Lawrence Phillips and Ahman Green.

Abdullah passed himself, Phillips and Green on the single-season all-purpose yards mark, totaling 1,999, good for third on the single-season list. His 2,977 career rushing yards place him eighth all-time at Nebraska.

Sophomore defensive end Randy Gregory's dominant season reached new heights after snuffing out the Bulldogs.

His sack in the first quarter increased his season total to 10.5, earning a spot in the top 10 on Nebraska's single-season list. He also added two tackles for loss in the game, bringing his season total to 19, which is good for ninth on the single-season list. Gregory has already stated he has no desire to turn pro after this season.

Fellow-newcomer Pat Smith finished his lone season in Lincoln with a career-long kick. His 46-yard second quarter boot bested a career-long 45-yard field goal against Minnesota. Smith also connected on all three extra

Ameer Abdullah goes over the top for a touchdown against Georgia.



points in Nebraska's 5-point win.

FRESHMAN MALIEK COLLINS STEPS UP ON DEFENSIVE LINE

When he wasn't playing one of the better games of his career in the Gator Bowl, Nebraska senior defensive end Jason Ankrah was likely taking a bit of pride in freshman Maliek Collins, who made his first career start against Georgia.

Collins was part of a defensive line effort that kept Georgia running back Todd Gurley bottled up for most of the game, and helped Nebraska to its first bowl win since the end of the 2009 season. Ankrah was the undisputed leader of that group, bringing them along during summer drills and answering question after question in practice.

"It's a role I never played before here," Ankrah said. "I was always the guy who never had to speak up. The fact I see them growing from me helping out, I feel real good about it. There's no hiding that. All their success makes me feel that much better than I was part of that success."

After the Gator Bowl win, Collins credited Ankrah and fellow defensive tackle Thaddeus Randle with helping him along this season. Collins' development is one reason that Nebraska feels good about its front-seven going into 2014.

True freshmen rarely play significant roles

at defensive tackle, but Collins saw his role grow throughout the year. He got the bulk of the first-team reps during bowl practice, and though he only finished the season with 12 tackles and a sack, he showed that he's capable of holding up in the Big Ten.

"I just started feeling more comfortable doing my job, and just practiced harder and took the reps that I needed to take," Collins said.

Collins wasn't initially expected to contribute right away when he signed out of the Kansas City area.

He played at a lightly-recruited, smaller school and many figured it would take time for Collins to adjust to college ball.

But Collins, a top high school wrestler had an advanced understanding of leverage and reported to fall camp in good shape. He now finds himself squarely in the mix to start next season at defensive tackle along with Vincent Valentine, Kevin Maurice, Aaron Curry, Terrell Clinkscales and others.

Collins said he's looking forward to the future and owes much to Ankrah and Randle.

"It was their last game and I really appreciate what they did for me," Collins said. "They helped me out from the beginning of fall camp. I would ask them the same question 10 times in a row.

"They told me to just to keep going, keep pushing. When the coach would get on me, to just keep pushing. They helped me out and taught me a lot, too."



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Husker coaches look to build momentum

Nebraska still trying to fill needs at several key positions with month left in the 2014 recruiting period.

The Huskers made a little noise on December, landing four defensive commitments, helping shore up the line, adding contributors for next year and finding a pair of early enrollees. However, there's still plenty of work left for NU to finish out this class before signing day in February.

Cornerback – It's been well documented that Nebraska had a bumpy finish by missing on Josh Keys and Danzel McDaniel, as well as long shot Raymond Wingo, late in the December visit period. The Huskers have started the relationship building process with Kweishi Brown but that will be a long battle and Nebraska doesn't offer as much in terms of geographical proximity.

It would be nice to see the Huskers back in on some high school defensive backs as well. Nebraska will use the break in the visit periods to reshuffle the board and identify some players that would be able to come in and

provide depth at cornerback.

It's not likely the Huskers would find an immediate contributor, but there's still a lot of defensive backs out there and Nebraska needs at least one more.

Offensive tackle – If cornerback has been a several cycle struggle for Nebraska its joined by offensive tackle. Following an impressive 2011 group, NU just hasn't been able to land help at the bookend positions on the offensive line.

Few teams have the depth that the Huskers will boast with guards, but misses on high-level players like Andrus Peat, Christian Morris, Kenny Lacy and now Brian Wallace will continue to bother John Garrison.

Nebraska needs at least one tackle in this class.

Landing Nick Gates would be a good addition for the Huskers, who also have feelers out to Kolton Miller and Chukwuma Okorafor.

However the new name that is catching a little attention is Denzel Ward. He's already

set a visit to Nebraska. Much like last year with Matt Finnin, Chongo Kondolo and Dwayne Johnson, expect a few new names to come up for the Huskers.

Defensive end – This might be the biggest luxury of the needs so far, simply because Nebraska nabbed two good pickups in Joe Keels and Darius Slade. However, NU should be looking for another high school lineman when it comes out of the bowl game. Kevin Bronson and Grant Harris are the names we know of now, but it wouldn't be a bad idea to keep turning over some senior film.

NU turned to players like Dimarya Mixon, Ernest Suttles and Kevin Maurice after good senior campaigns. It wouldn't be the worst idea for NU to take another long look at Blue Springs defensive end/linebacker Elijah Lee. He'd need a year to red-shirt and develop the size, but right now it looks like Kansas State is going to be sitting on a very interesting defender

that at one time expressed a lot of Nebraska interest. Expect to see defensive coordinator John Papuchis and Rick Kaczinski working on a few new names at the start of January.

Skill position depth – Cheating a bit but the Huskers could use another body at quarterback, running back and wide receiver. NU has young playmakers at each spot, but injuries have bled through at all three positions and there are scholarships available.

The receiver board will likely be reshuffled a bit as the Huskers appear to be on the outside looking in at several targets.

Running back looks like it could be Corey Avery with the possibility of Kalen Ballage. Coltin Gerhart and Quinton Flowers are the two potential quarterback additions that could join Zack Darlington in the class.

N

Young defense shows great improvement, has bigger goals for the future

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

A YOUNG DEFENSE CLOSES THE SEASON with its back against the wall and two consecutive fourth down stops to win the game.

Now what?

The parallels between the 2008 defense and the 2013 version are there if you look just hard enough. Both ended their seasons with victories in Jacksonville where big stops were needed, and will go into the following season with their two-deep pretty much intact.

There's no Suh this time around, but for a young defense that showed promise and improvement late in the season, there will be similar expectations.

"It's the first game of the new year," defensive end Randy Gregory said on the field after the bowl win. "Hopefully we can carry that momentum into next season. We have a lot of guys coming back, we've got some guys coming in who can help us out. We have a great year coming up."

Gregory's return is one big reason for optimism about the coming season, but he won't be the only one coming back. Of the players listed in the two deep of Nebraska's front-seven on defense, only defensive end Jason Ankrah and defensive tackle Thaddeus Randle will exhaust their eligibility. To that group, Nebraska will also add junior college defensive end Joe Keels at semester, and Terrell Clinkscales over the summer. Clinkscales is the No. 1 junior college defensive tackle in the country according to 247Sports.

The promise shown by that defensive group is one reason that Gregory said he wanted to return for his junior season despite being draft eligible this year. He isn't the only Husker defender who sees the possibilities next season for Nebraska's defense.

"Just being experienced and playing the number of games guys have, that's going to be huge for us next year," redshirt freshman MIKE linebacker Michael Rose said.

Nebraska will have to replace pieces in its secondary, next season. Long-time nickelback Ciente Evans moves on, and Nebraska will need to find a capable replacement at a key position in Nebraska's defense. Also leaving are corner Stanley Jean-Baptiste and safety Andrew Green, though Nebraska will add corner Byerson Cockrell at the semester.

A number of young players made starts on defense for Nebraska this season, but the most veteran defensive player returning for Nebraska is safety Corey Cooper, who made his 17th career start in the Gator Bowl. After that, Nebraska has just Joshua Mitchell, David Santos, and Gregory as players who have made double-digit career starts going into next season.



"We didn't even recognize who that team was against Wyoming. We've come such a long way and grown up as a defense and kind of molded together. It's a thousand-fold better than where we were at."

The debate always happens about just how much a bowl win can carry over to the next season for a team. Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini said earlier this week that he thought the momentum boost might be overstated.

The young players who will be coming back next season said after the game that just how much momentum carries over into next season will be decided by how hard they work this spring.

"I think us having more chemistry than some of the other senior-led Big Ten teams is going to help us, but that does us no good if we go into the offseason with a poor work ethic and a sense of entitlement," Rose said. "We really haven't done much. We won the Gator Bowl, we beat a good Georgia team, but we underachieved we felt like. It was a great bowl, but we want to be in the Rose Bowl."

This week, Nebraska's defense watched clips from the team's lackluster performance in the season opener against Wyoming as a way of measuring how far the team has come this season.

Sophomore linebacker David Santos said he's encouraged by the promise Nebraska's defense has, but he said his teammates know there is more work to do.

"We didn't even recognize who that team was against Wyoming," Santos said. "We've come such a long way and grown up as a defense and kind of molded together. It's a thousand-fold better than where we were at." **N**

*Read daily Husker reports from
Michael Bruntz at
HuskersIllustrated.com
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FINAL SCORE: NEBRASKA 24, GEORGIA 19





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: BO PELINI INSTRUCTS NEBRASKA'S DEFENSIVE PLAYERS LATE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE GATOR BOWL JOSH MITCHELL SIGNALS NEBRASKA BALL AFTER RECOVERING A FUMBLED PUNT. STANLEY JEAN-BAPTISTE JAWS WITH GEORGIA CENTER DAVID ANDREWS. QUNCY ENUNWA HUGS WIDE RECEIVERS COACH RICH FISHER AFTER HIS 99-YARD TOUCHDOWN. DAVID SANTOS (41) AND MICHAEL ROSE (15) TACKLE GEORGIA RUNNING BACK TODD GURLEY. COREY COOPER (6) LAYS OUT CHRIS CONLEY WHILE ANDREW GREEN LOOKS ON. JOSH BANDERAS BLOCKS GEORGIA'S LUCAS REDD (24). JASON ANKRAH (9) TRIES TO RECOVER A FUMBLE BY GEORGIA QUARTERBACK HUTSON MASON, WHO EVENTUALLY GOT BACK ON TOP OF THE BALL. (PHOTOS BY ADDISON FITZGERALD)

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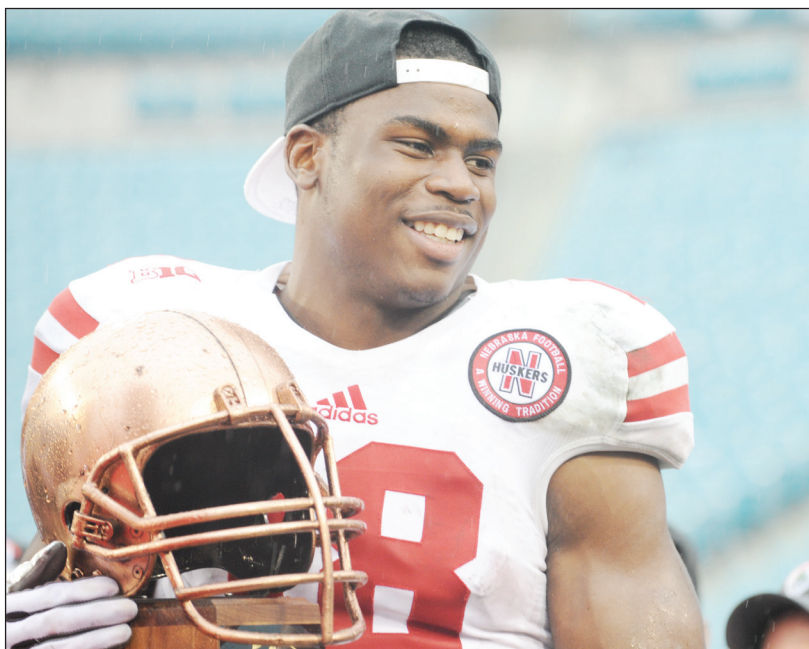
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CELEBRATING IN THE RAIN

Huskers win second Gator Bowl of Bo Pelini's career

PHOTOS BY ADDISON FITZGERALD



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: SENIOR BRANDON CHAPEK (51) AND SOPHOMORE ZACH STERUP CELEBRATE THE WIN. FANS CONGRATULATE MIKE MOUDY (74) AND CHARLES JACKSON. QUINCY ENUNWA HOLDS THE MVP TROPHY. JAKE LONG AND JAKE COTTON DUMP GATORADE ON BO PELINI. BRENT QVALE (76) GREETES FANS. KENNY BELL SMILES BIG AFTER THE GAME.

2MinuteDrill



OFFENSIVE LINE BECOMES BAND OF BROTHERS

Offensive lineman Brent Qvale, who was one of the few starters to not get seriously injured, blocks for Ameer Abdullah during the Gator Bowl.

ADDISON FITZGERALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

2MinuteDrill

By Michael Bruntz, Lanny Holstein, Chris Peters & Michael Schaefer

Going into the 2013 season, there were whispers of the return of the Nebraska pipeline.

The Husker offensive line was big and experienced – it was a “band of brothers,” players said. The senior-heavy group had potential that made fans giddy.

Then the All-American went down. Spencer Long’s torn MCL against Purdue meant he would miss the season.

Next it was Jake Cotton, the other guard, who injured his MCL while wearing Long’s number against Northwestern.

Then tackle Jeremiah Sirles went down. MCL again. Next was center Cole Pensick – MCL.

“After the second one, you could kind of see, ‘Oh, man, what’s going on?’” Pensick said. “And then the third one, you’re thinking ‘OK, this has got to be a joke.’”

“It’s crazy. Who would have even thought we would have four offensive linemen with technically the same (injury)? It’s just weird.”

For the first time since the start of the Big Ten season, Nebraska’s offensive line was completely healthy – aside from Long, who likely won’t be healthy enough to practice until around the time of the NFL Draft.

Before the injuries started happening, the unit was looking to clear up the little things. But once guys started going down, the soldiers in Nebraska’s offensive line had to pick each other up and get the new guys up to speed.

Mike Moudy came in at guard to fill in for Long. Mark Pelini played at center with Pensick either injured or sliding over to guard when Cotton missed time. Tackle Andrew Rodriguez slid back inside to play guard when Sirles was healthy enough to go. Zach Sterup, still very raw at tackle, played extensively.

The Huskers cleared out the bench. Seniors who worked mostly with the scout team, like senior Brandon Chapek, found their names on the travel roster. Coach John Garrison went from managing the expectations of a veteran-heavy group to acting as the glue keeping a makeshift squad together.

“He really kept poised,” Pensick said. “He kept talking to us about how he loved us and was going to do anything to get us ready to play, that he had our backs.”

“We said it to him, too. We love him as a coach. We have his back, too. We’re going to go out there and fight.”

The band of brothers rallied around their fallen comrade.

In a meeting, Cotton suggested the team start wearing Long’s No. 61 jersey again. They would rotate who wears it each game.

Garrison and Long liked the idea. Head coach Bo Pelini did too.

Rodriguez was the first to squeeze into the No. 61 jersey after the meeting. He wore it in Minneapolis, as the Huskers fell to the Gophers.

The next week, back at Nebraska, Cotton marched out, Long’s number donning the scarlet jersey wrapping his 6-foot-6, 305 pound frame.

“He had his best game I’ve ever seen him play until he went down,” Pensick said. “He was playing lights out.”

That’s when the dominoes started falling, however. Cotton came out of the game with a bum MCL, just like Long. In the coming weeks, so did Sirles and Pensick. Moudy, the replacement at guard, tweaked his shoulder. Garrison kept scraping the bench for new guys.

But never did the unit look beaten down. The line held up, keeping defenders mostly off of quarterbacks Tommy Armstrong Jr. and Ron Kellogg III. It kept I-back Ameer Abdullah upright, allowing him to top 1,500 yards rushing for the Big Ten lead.

Despite losing soldier after soldier, the warriors of Nebraska’s trenches kept picking each other up and kept fighting.

“It just shows how tight we are,” Pensick said. “We literally are a band of brothers. We’re going to fight and do what’s needed.”

HI'S TOP 5

UP-AND COMERS FOR NEBRASKA'S 2014 SEASON



Leroy Alexander gets flagged for unnecessary roughness in the Gator Bowl.

- 1 MICHAEL ROSE**
LB – RS FRESHMAN
- 2 VINCENT VALENTINE**
DT – RS FRESHMAN
- 3 ADAM TAYLOR**
RB – FRESHMAN
- 4 LEROY ALEXANDER**
S – RS FRESHMAN
- 5 COURTNEY LOVE**
LB – RS FRESHMAN

Now that the 2013 season is officially in the books, Husker Nation turns its eye to the future. There are plenty of players making a push for more playing time, especially as seniors graduate, but none seem to be more destined for stardom than this handful.

REDSHIRTS LOVE, TAYLOR EARN SCOUT TEAM HONORS

Players talk about Adam Taylor like he's an All-American.

The four-star prospect, a redshirting freshman on Nebraska's scout team, hasn't even seen the field. But fellow players call him a tough, vicious runner.

"That's going to be a special kid," senior defensive end Jason Ankrah said.

Running backs coach Ron Brown said earlier in the season that he could have played right away — he had the physicality to do it. But Taylor wanted to take the year off. He thought his elusiveness and pass-catching skills needed help.

He also wanted a bonus year. He knew Ameer Abdullah and Imani Cross were in front of him.

"That's a very smart decision on his part," Ankrah said. "He has a lot of football ahead of him."

The kid runs hard. He's not like the other scout teamers. Senior nickel back Ciente Evans has noticed it too.

"He's physical," Evans said. "He runs downhill. He's been giving us a good look all year."

With Nebraska's bowl game behind them and the 2013 season in the books, it's time to look to the future and consider which up-and-comers could crack into the top two flights in the fall.

Taylor is at the top of that list. He was named the team's Offensive Scout Team MVP. On defense, that honor went to Courtney Love.

Love joined the team in January 2013, but an injury in fall camp convinced coaches to redshirt him. Teammates call the 6-foot-1, 230-pound Youngstown, Ohio, native a "grown man."

The two will join names like linebacker Marcus Newby, defensive end A.J. Natter, 6-foot-9 offensive tackle David Knevel and defensive backs Boaz Joseph and Drake Martinez.

"These are some guys that are going to help us next year, no question," coach Bo Pelini said. "Playing scout team, if you approach it the right way, which they did, and they came out and gave great effort every day, that's a valuable experience. I've seen them all get better."

While there's no experience quite like gameday, the scout teamers do get to go against the first team almost every day in practice. Also, since they're not strapping on the shoulder pads and taking a beating on Satur-



Ameer Abdullah pushes the pile forward.

ADDISON FITZGERALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

days, they go through a more rigorous strength and conditioning program.

"Those guys that aren't playing are on more of a developmental program because they're not getting taxed on Saturday as much," Pelini said. "I think that helps them. So they're going to be a little bit further ahead as far as getting that jump heading into the winter conditioning program. So there's a lot of benefits to it."

Outside of the redshirting freshman, there are a lot of players that coaches and seniors have kept their eyes on, especially in the defensive backfield.

Starting cornerbacks Ciente Evans and Stanley Jean-Baptiste are graduating, as is starting safety Andrew Green. The Huskers will need to find replacements by the start of next season, though a few candidates are starting to separate themselves.

Safety LeRoy Alexander proved throughout the season that he can be reliable in coverage, not only as a sure tackler, improving as the season went on. He'll likely be looked to as a starter alongside Corey Cooper.

"I think he's done a good job back there at safety," Evans said. "He's physical, but he can cover, especially for a safety."

At Evans' nickel spot, Pelini is toying with the idea of Charles Jackson filling the hybrid role.

"I coached him personally along with Coach (Terry) Joseph early on when he was playing some nickel," Pelini said. "I think he has the ability to do it."

"I think he's a lot further along as far as his knowledge of the defense. I think he's one guy that makes sense to put in there. But will he be

the guy? I don't know. We have a lot of different options as far as that's concerned -- and good options."

One of those good options is Jonathan Rose. The Auburn transfer played occasionally during the 2013 season, but never carved out much of a role in the defense.

Pelini said he's seen some good stuff from him, though, and thinks he could be a quick riser, particularly out wide at cornerback.

"I'll tell you, you know who's made a big jump in the last 2 1/2 weeks is Jonathan Rose," Pelini said during bowl preparations. "I'm really excited about him."

Nebraska needs players to fill vital roles for 2014. A young offensive line, a still young front seven and a defensive backfield with a few open positions means a competitive off-season for the Huskers.

All of that starts when the team begins spring practice.

GATOR BOWL FEATURED TEAMS WITH SIMILAR ISSUES

Nebraska coach Bo Pelini understands what it takes to successfully navigate through a college football season, and the coach said before the Gator Bowl that he feels for Georgia, which dealt with many of the same issues the Huskers did this season.

"Both teams went through injuries, and there were many things that both teams had to deal with," the coach said. "I think when you face all that, the tough times when the season goes along, it gets crazy."

Both Georgia and Nebraska came into the



Nebraska secondary coach Terry Joseph announced Jan. 6 that he was leaving to take a similar job at Texas A&M.

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED FILE PHOTO

game with 8-4 records despite injuries to their starting quarterbacks and a number of key players - something the Pelini is proud of.

"Winning eight games isn't easy," the coach said. "I don't think people understand that."

ABDULLAH HUMBLE ABOUT LIFTER OF THE YEAR TITLE

Nebraska running back Ameer Abdullah was named the lifter of the year at the annual awards banquet held prior to the Gator Bowl, but the junior is humble about it.

"It's just an emphasis that we put on any player at Nebraska," he said. "We understand that it's a long season. You have to be physically fit, and we work to maximize every opportunity that we can to get stronger here."

At 5-foot-9 and 190 pounds, Abdullah isn't the biggest guy on the team, but coaches and players alike recognize the Homewood, Ala., native's strength and drive in the weight room. His position coach, Ron Brown, routinely calls him "Mighty Mouse."

GATOR BOWL FEATURED TOP RUNNING BACKS

The Gator Bowl featured a pair of running backs that could be among the nation's leading rushers in 2014 in Georgia's Todd Gurley and Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah (should Abdullah come back, which is currently unclear).

"There's no doubt," Pelini said. "They're both great backs. They are different. They have different styles, and they're obviously built differently, but I go back to my days in

the NFL with different guys that were on my team or that you played against, and great players come in a lot of different shapes and sizes and a lot of different skill sets."

Gurley was the focus of Georgia's attack against the Huskers, amassing 86 rushing yards and 97 receiving.

"He's a great player with a lot of different strengths," Pelini said. "He can do things in both the running game and the passing game, but I've said it all year. I wouldn't trade Ameer for any back in the country. I'm obviously a little bit partial, but I think he's as good as there is in the country."

Pelini, with Abdullah sitting a few feet to his side, made an inadvertent pitch for his workhorse back to stay another year at the pregame presser.

"I think he'll be up there for all the post-season awards after next year because of the work he'll put in to get better for that season," the coach said.

PELINI KEPT BUSY WITH RECRUITING, BOWL PREPARATION

Bowl preparation was a little crammed this year for Bo Pelini and staff. The Husker coaches took advantage of the time between the regular season and the bowl game to hit the recruiting trail while also preparing for the Bulldogs.

"It used to be that you had a lot of time in December, kind of like a second spring practice, but now with the way the recruiting periods are set up and as late as the season goes, you don't have as much bowl preparation before you get down to the bowl site," Pelini said.

College football is getting faster and faster, according to the coach. His profession is asked more and more to multitask around the clock, and it can lead to sloppy play in bowl games if the coaches aren't careful, Pelini said.

"What you worry about are some of the things you can't simulate in practice, some of the live tackling," he said. "It is very much like the first game. You worry about the fundamentals, those things you can't see when you are going live."

RECRUITS REACT TO JOSEPH LEAVING FOR TEXAS A&M

As news came out that defensive backs coach Terry Joseph was leaving for Texas A&M, at least one Nebraska commit felt blindsided by the situation, but isn't wavering in his decision to enroll at Nebraska next week.

East Mississippi Community College defensive back Byerson Cockrell was personally recruited by Joseph in November to step in and help the Huskers through a transition in the secondary.

Cockrell visited for the Iowa game and committed a week later. He had been looking forward to working with Joseph, but instead wished the coach luck in College Station.

"It's OK," Cockrell said. "Well, I feel like if that's what's best for him and his family, I'm happy for him. And I feel like I'm still doing (what's right for) me no matter who my coach is. What I can say is that I'm glad he got me to a good school before he left. I hate that it happened, but that's life. Now we have to adjust to the new coach that's coming in."

Cockrell will arrive in Lincoln on Saturday and begins classes on Monday. He signed with Nebraska in December and will be competing for one of the starting positions left behind by the graduation of Ciente Evans and Stanley Jean-Baptiste.

Lincoln Southeast safety Luke Gifford commented on Joseph's leaving on Twitter.

"Wish coach Joseph would have been around for my four years. He's a great guy and I wish him the best at A&M. #GBR"

Gifford was the first commitment of Nebraska's 2014 class and he'd developed a strong relationship with the NU assistant, as he's slated to play safety when he joins the team in June.

Two other Nebraska secondary commitments - Hendrickson (Texas) Trai Mosley and Alief Taylor's Joshua Kalu - have yet to respond for requests for comment.

Nebraska's secondary will be undergoing change yet again. Joseph's replacement will be the fourth defensive backs coach in the past five seasons for Nebraska.

Bowl Game Results (All times E.S.T.)



Gilden New Mexico

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m. ESPN

	Washington State 45
	Pac 12 (6-7)
	Colorado State 48
	Mountain West (8-6)

Royal Purple Las Vegas

Saturday, Dec. 21, 3:30 p.m. ABC

	Fresno State 20
	Mountain West (11-2)
	USC 45
	Pac 12 (10-4)



Famous Idaho Potato

Saturday, Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m. ESPN

	Buffalo 24
	Mid-American (8-5)
	San Diego State 49
	Mountain West (8-5)

R+L Carriers New Orleans

Saturday, Dec. 21, 9 p.m. ESPN

	Tulane 21
	Conference USA (7-6)
	Louisiana-Lafayette 24
	Sunbelt (9-4)

Beef O'Brady's

Monday Dec. 23, 2 p.m. ESPN

	East Carolina 37
	Conference USA (10-3)
	Ohio 20
	Mid-American (7-6)



Sheraton Hawaii

Dec. 24, 8 p.m. ESPN

	Boise State 23
	Mountain West (8-5)
	Oregon State 38
	Pac 12 (7-6)

Little Caesars Pizza

Thursday, Dec. 26, 6 p.m. ESPN

	Pittsburgh 30
	ACC (7-6)
	Bowling Green 27
	Mid-American (10-4)

S.D. County Credit Union

Thursday Dec. 26, 9:30 p.m. ESPN

	Utah State 21
	Mountain West (9-5)
	Northern Illinois 14
	Mid-American (12-2)

Military Bowl

Friday, Dec. 27, 2:30 p.m. ESPN

	Marshall 31
	Conference USA (10-4)
	Maryland 20
	ACC (7-6)

Texas Bowl

Friday, Dec. 27, 6 p.m. ESPN

	Syracuse 21
	ACC (7-6)
	Minnesota 17
	Big Ten (8-5)



Fight Hunger

Friday Dec. 27, 9:30 p.m. ESPN

	BYU 16
	Independent (8-5)
	Washington 31
	Pac 12 (9-4)

New Era Pinstripe

Saturday, Dec. 28, Noon ESPN

	Rutgers 16
	American (6-7)
	Notre Dame 29
	Independent (9-4)

Belk Bowl

Saturday, Dec. 28, 3:20 p.m. ESPN

	Cincinnati 17
	American (9-4)
	North Carolina 39
	ACC (7-6)

Russell Athletic

Saturday, Dec. 28, 6:45 p.m. ESPN

	Miami 9
	ACC (9-4)
	Louisville 36
	American (12-1)



Buffalo Wild Wings

Saturday, Dec. 28, 10:15 p.m. ESPN

	Michigan 14
	Big Ten (7-6)
	Kansas State 31
	Big 12 (8-5)

Bell Helicopter Armed Forces

Monday, Dec. 30, 11:45 a.m. ESPN

	Middle Tennessee 6
	Conference USA (8-5)
	Navy 24
	Independent (9-4)

F.A. Mortgage Music City

Monday, Dec. 30, 3:15 p.m. ESPN

	Ole Miss 25
	SEC (8-5)
	Georgia Tech 7
	ACC (7-6)

Valero Alamo

Monday, Dec. 30, 6:45 p.m. ESPN

	Oregon 30
	Pac 12 (11-2)
	Texas 7
	Big 12 (8-5)

National University Holiday

Monday, Dec. 30, 10:15 a.m. ESPN

	Arizona State 23
	Pac 12 (10-4)
	Texas Tech 37
	Big 12 (8-5)



AdvoCare V100

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 12:30 p.m. ESPN

	Arizona 42
	Pac 12 (8-5)
	Boston College 19
	ACC (7-6)

Hyundai Sun



Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2 p.m. CBS

	Virginia Tech 12
	ACC (8-5)
	UCLA 42
	Pac 12 (10-3)

Bowl Game Results (All times E.S.T.)

AutoZone Liberty

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 4 p.m. ESPN

 Rice 7	
Conference USA (10-4)	
 Mississippi State 44	
SEC (7-6)	



Capital One

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1 p.m. ABC

 Wisconsin 24	
Big Ten (9-4)	
 South Carolina 34	
SEC (11-2)	



Tostitos Fiesta

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 8:30 p.m. ESPN

 UCF 52	
American (12-1)	
 Baylor 42	
Big 12 (11-2)	

AT&T Cotton

Friday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. Fox

 Oklahoma State 31	
Big 12 (11-3)	
 Missouri 41	
SEC (11-2)	

BBVA Compass

Saturday, Jan. 4, 1 p.m. ESPN

 Vanderbilt 41	
SEC (9-4)	
 Houston 24	
American (8-5)	

GoDaddy

Sunday, Jan. 5, 9 p.m. ESPN

 Arkansas State 23	
Sun Belt (8-5)	
 Ball State 20	
Mid-American (10-3)	



VIZIO BCS Championship

Monday, Jan. 6, 8:30 p.m. ESPN

 Florida State 34	
ACC (14-0)	
 Auburn 31	
SEC (12-2)	


Chick-fil-A

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. ESPN

 Duke 48	
ACC (10-3)	
 Texas A&M 52	
SEC (8-4)	


Outback

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1 p.m. ESPN

 Iowa 14	
Big Ten (8-5)	
 LSU 21	
SEC (10-3)	

All-State Sugar

Thursday, Jan. 2, 8:30 p.m. ESPN

 Oklahoma 45	
Big 12 (11-2)	
 Alabama 31	
SEC (11-2)	



Heart of Dallas

Wednesday, Jan. 1, Noon ESPNU

 UNLV 14	
Mountain West (7-6)	
 North Texas 36	
Conference USA (9-4)	


Rose Bowl by Vizio

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 5 p.m. ESPN

 Michigan State 24	
Big Ten (13-1)	
 Stanford 20	
Pac 12 (11-3)	

Discover Orange

Friday, Jan. 3, 8:30 p.m. ESPN

 Clemson 40	
ACC (11-2)	
 Ohio State 35	
Big Ten (12-2)	



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SEASON REVIEW & FUTURE SCHEDULES

Quincy Enunwa runs away from the Georgia defense on his 99-yard touchdown catch while Jake Cotton signals a touchdown in the background.



AUG. 31 RESULT
37-34 WIN
FINAL RECORD
5-7



SEPT. 7 RESULT
56-13 WIN
FINAL RECORD
1-11



SEPT. 14 RESULT
41-21 LOSS
FINAL RECORD
10-4



SEPT. 21 RESULT
59-20 WIN
FINAL RECORD
10-4



OCT. 5 RESULT
39-19 WIN
FINAL RECORD
4-8



OCT. 12 RESULT
44-7 WIN
FINAL RECORD
1-11



OCT. 26 RESULT
34-23 LOSS
FINAL RECORD
8-5



NOV. 2 RESULT
27-24 WIN
FINAL RECORD
5-7



ADDISON FITZGERALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



NOV. 9 RESULT
17-13 WIN
FINAL RECORD
7-6



NOV. 16 RESULT
41-28 LOSS
FINAL RECORD
13-1



NOV. 23 RESULT
23-20 OT WIN
FINAL RECORD
7-5



NOV. 29 RESULT
38-17 LOSS
FINAL RECORD
8-5



JAN. 1 RESULT
24-19 WIN
FINAL RECORD
8-5



NEBRASKA'S 2014 TO 2017 OPPONENTS

2014 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
8/30	Florida Atlantic	Lincoln, Neb.
9/6	McNeese State	Lincoln, Neb.
9/13	Fresno State	Fresno, Calif.
9/20	Miami (Fla.)	Lincoln, Neb.
9/27	Illinois	Lincoln, Neb.
10/4	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.
10/18	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.
10/25	Rutgers	Lincoln, Neb.
11/1	Purdue	Lincoln, Neb.
11/15	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.
11/22	Minnesota	Lincoln, Neb.
11/28	Iowa	Iowa City, Ia.
12/6	Big Ten Game	Indianapolis, Ind.

2015 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
9/5	BYU	Lincoln, Neb.
9/12	South Alabama	Lincoln, Neb.
9/19	Miami (Fla.)	Miami, Fla.
9/26	Southern Miss	Lincoln, Neb.
10/3	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.
10/10	Wisconsin	Lincoln, Neb.
10/17	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.
10/24	Northwestern	Lincoln, Neb.
10/31	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.
11/7	Michigan State	Lincoln, Neb.
11/14	Rutgers	Piscataway, N.J.
11/27	Iowa	Lincoln, Neb.
12/5	Big Ten Game	Indianapolis, Ind.

2016 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
9/3	Fresno State	Lincoln, Neb.
9/10	Wyoming	Lincoln, Neb.
9/17	Oregon	Lincoln, Neb.
10/1	Illinois	Lincoln, Neb.
10/8	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.
10/15	Indiana	Bloomington, Ind.
10/22	Purdue	Lincoln, Neb.
10/29	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.
11/5	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio
11/12	Minnesota	Lincoln, Neb.
11/19	Maryland	Lincoln, Neb.
11/25	Iowa	Iowa City, Ia.
12/3	Big Ten Game	Indianapolis, Ind.

2017 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
9/2	TBA	Lincoln, Neb.
9/9	Oregon	Eugene, Ore.
9/16	Northern Illinois	Lincoln, Neb.
9/23	Rutgers	Lincoln, Neb.
9/30	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.
10/7	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.
10/14	Ohio State	Lincoln, Neb.
10/28	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.
11/4	Northwestern	Lincoln, Neb.
11/11	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.
11/18	Penn State	State College, Pa.
11/24	Iowa	Lincoln, Neb.
12/2	Big Ten Game	TBD

IN THE RedZone

Suh tops Oregon list, Shirey headlines Pennsylvania

Oregon native Ndamakong Suh tackles a Texas Tech ball carrier.



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED ARCHIVES

By Kalani Simpson

Huskies Illustrated

You may or may not have done well in geography in school, but now we're giving you another chance.

Husker geography. That's right — this is the perfect subject for tailgate arguments, bar bets or radio drive-time talk shows (you're welcome).

It's time to answer that age-old question: Who is the best all-time Husker from each state? In the last issue, *Huskies Illustrated* looked at the best players to come out of Hawaii, North Dakota and Mississippi. This week we move on to Oregon and Pennsylvania.

OREGON

Ndamakong Suh

DT, 2005-09

One second. Ndamakong Suh had all

**Husker
Geography
Part 11**

but single-handedly beaten the Texas Longhorns in that 2009 Big 12 Championship game, if not for that one second left on the clock.

Best not get into that.

For 59 minutes, 59 seconds, Suh played a game better than any highlight package ever put together anywhere.

By this point of the season, it would have been, should have been impossible for Suh to play up to the level of hype he had been exceeding. He didn't. He exceeded it.

The stats say he had 12 tackles that night, 10 solo, seven behind the line of scrimmage, four and one-half sacks. But those are just numbers.

Here's another one, which might better tell the story of the way he played that night:

I kept that game on my DVR for two and a half years.

Suh had not just the best single defensive season in Nebraska history, that 2009

senior year. He may have had the best single defensive season by anyone, anywhere, ever.

He won all the trophies, and don't be surprised if someday they name one for him.

(He didn't, of course, win the Heisman, as a defensive lineman.

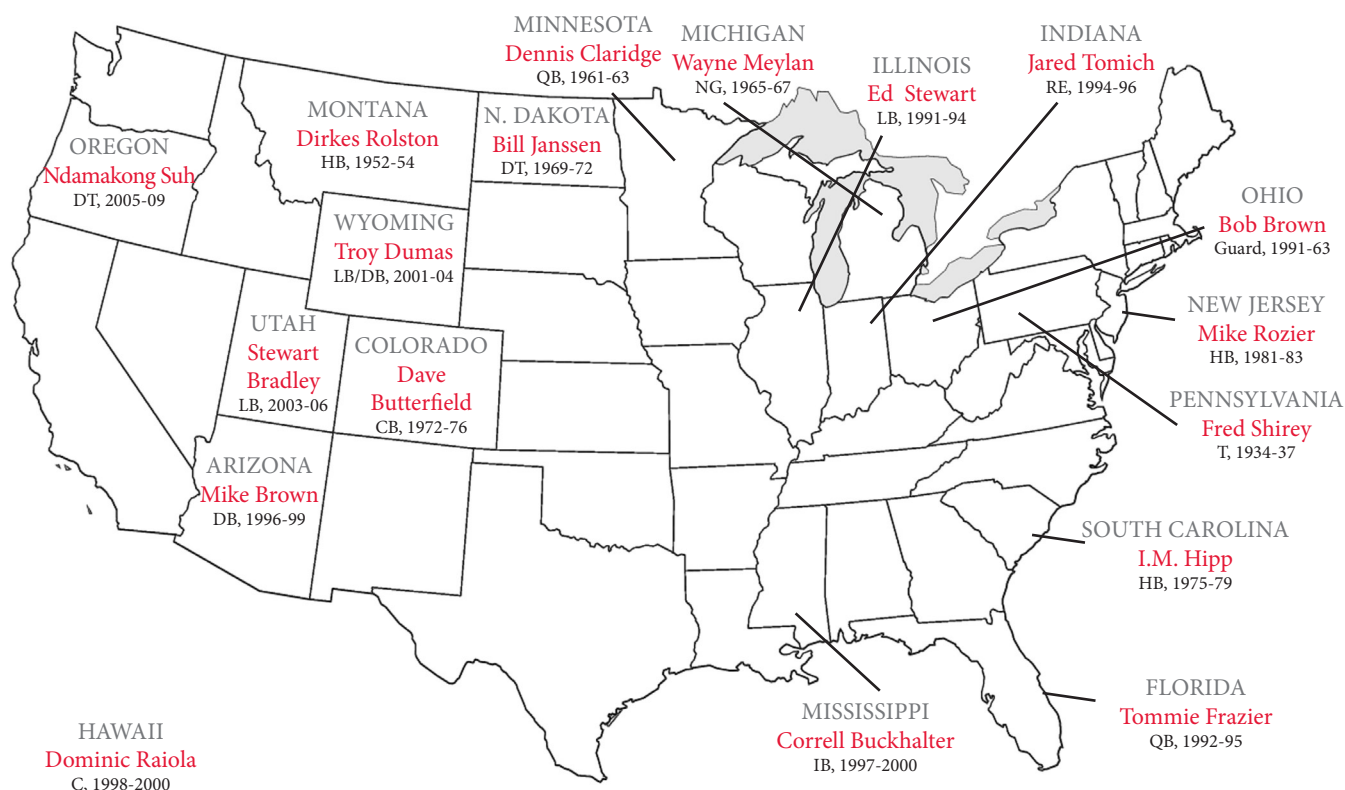
But he was invited to New York as a finalist. For the position he played, it was the rarest of feats.)

It felt good to be a Husker, then. The Nebraska offense kept sputtering, but it didn't matter.

Suh was doing something special. He was holding the line. He was playing on the other side of it.

You first knew something special was happening when Suh ran down Missouri's Blaine Gabbert in a rainstorm, punched the ball away, then sumo'd Gabbert backward, injuring the quarterback in the process. (It's the kind of play he'd get fined for these days, under the NFL microscope as

All-Time Greatest Huskers From Each State



the pro league's poster boy for rough play.) Inspired, the Huskers went on to win.

It was a sign of things to come. He was unstoppable, had the best defensive season we'd ever seen.

It was just a few years ago, yet it seems so very far away.

PENNSYLVANIA

Fred Shirey
T, 1934-37

A legend. The two-way tackle – an Associated Press report called him “Nebraska’s slashing tackle” – was a first-team All-American his senior season and played in the East-West All-Star game, was drafted by the pros, and turned down the NFL to teach at Beatrice High School.

Bob Liggett
DT, 1966-69

If you come out of Alquiappa, it's a good bet that you can play. Liggett could. He played behind the great Wayne Meylan,

but when he got his chance he was always around the ball.

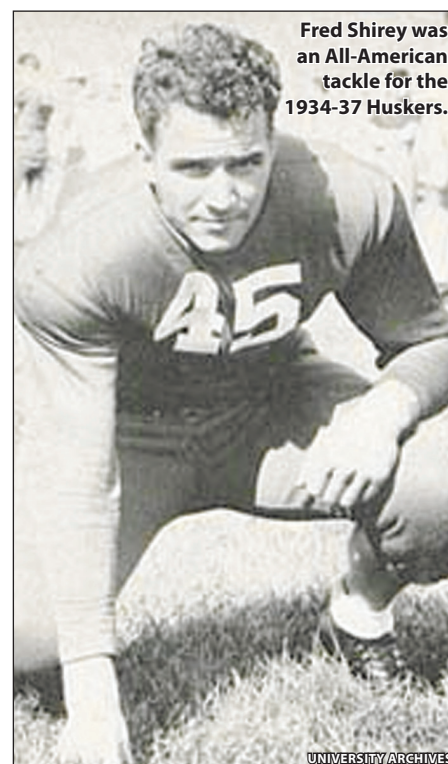
Batting passes, playing behind the line. He had 80 tackles as a senior, for a defense that led the league.

Ben Gregory
RB, 1965-67

Twice won All-Big 8 honors. A captain. Described by Bob Devaney as one of the best all-around players the Huskers ever had.

Barry Alvarez
LB, 1965-67

Is he remembered on lists like these in part because he went on to become a hall-of-fame coach? Probably. But Alvarez did make All-Big 8 as a Bob Devaney line-backer, though he does joke that one of his interception returns was described thusly: “He’s at the 50 ... the 49 ... the 48 ...” If you haven’t seen the old photo of Alvarez with hair, look it up.



Fred Shirey was an All-American tackle for the 1934-37 Huskers.

THE **BIG**TEN BEAT

Big Ten Earns a Little Respect in Bowls

Nebraska defeats Georgia, Michigan State wins Rose Bowl over Stanford; Penn State looking for new coach. | DOUG GRIFFITHS

Thanks to Nebraska and Michigan State's wins this post-season the Big Ten earned some much-needed respect. Had Ohio State beaten Clemson in the Orange Bowl, the conference would've opened even more eyes.

It could've been a great bowl season for the Big Ten – three of the leagues' five losses came by a touchdown or less – but the conference will gladly take the Huskers and Spartans' big bowl victories. The Huskers and Spartans' wins were the only two the conference enjoyed this holiday season as the Big Ten finished just 2-5 in the bowl season.

Even though Nebraska and Michigan State were bright spots this football bowl season, the Big Ten continues to struggle in the post-season. Consider this ... over the last three seasons the conference is 8-16 in bowl games (2-5 in 2013 and 4-6 in 2012).

The league's bowl performance this season was even more dismal if you consider the Big Ten's two new additions for the 2014 season – Rutgers and Maryland – both lost their bowl games. Over the past three seasons January bowl games have not been very memorable for Big Ten teams as the conference is a dismal 6-16. The Huskers though own one of those elusive victories and it came against a SEC team, a conference Big Ten teams have struggled mightily with recently. In the last three years, the Big Ten is 3-7 against the SEC in bowl games. During that same stretch, the Big Ten is just 1-5 against the Big 12 and 1-3 against the Pac-12.

Michigan State, on the other hand, delivered the Big Ten a rare Rose Bowl victory. The Spartans' win over the Cardinal was just the Big Ten's second in the last 11 Rose Bowl games and snapped a three-game losing streak.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* looks at some of the football happenings ongoing at the other 11 Big Ten schools.

ILLINOIS

After getting a vote of confidence from his athletic director, Illini coach Tim Beckman talked about the slight improvements his program made from Year One to Year Two.

"I think there's six Big Ten teams that im-

proved their record from a year ago," said Beckman, whose team won two games in 2012 and won four in 2013. "We were one of them. It's not a big jump two to four. I'm not going to be happy with that by any means, but we did get better. We need to make that stride again next year to get this football team better and get this fan base more energetic with where we're moving the program forward. We still have a way to go. We're going to get there."

INDIANA

The theme this off-season for the Hoosiers will be change, but that doesn't necessarily mean Coach Kevin Wilson is going to be shuffling his coaching staff.

"I expect a lot of changes because we have to get better," said Wilson, whose team finished 5-7 this season. "Do we practice differently? Do we change majors and take tougher major classes to make tougher player? Do we put our left sock on first instead of our right sock?"

"When you're not doing the things you need to do, you need to make improvement."

Many believe to make that improvement Wilson will have to make some coaching staff change, especially on defense where IU allowed a school-record 38.8 points per game.

IOWA

Had the Hawkeyes taken better care of the football, they likely would've won the Outback Bowl over LSU. However, a fumbled punt and fourth-quarter interception proved to be the difference. Iowa had poor field position through most of the game and trailed 21-7 with just over two minutes to play when Jeremy Hill scored on a 37-yard touchdown run. Despite the loss, the 2013 season was a successful one for the Hawkeyes. Kirk Ferentz, who makes nearly \$4 million per season, got his club to improve by four wins from a year ago and as a result make a New Year's Day bowl appearance.

"This group, especially our older guys, they've shown the younger guys how to do things," Ferentz said. "How to work. How to act. How to think. I just hope everybody's paying attention. I think we've got a group right under-

LEGENDS DIVISION

2013 Standings

Team	Overall Record	Conference Record
!*Michigan State	13-1	8-0
*Nebraska	9-4	5-3
*Minnesota	8-5	4-4
*Iowa	8-5	5-3
*Michigan	7-6	3-5
Northwestern	5-7	1-7

LEADERS DIVISION

2013 Standings

Team	Overall Record	Conference Record
!*Ohio State	12-2	8-0
*Wisconsin	9-4	6-2
x Penn State	7-5	4-4
Indiana	5-7	3-5
Illinois	4-8	1-7
Purdue	1-11	0-8

*- Bowl Eligible

x- Ineligible for postseason

! Division Championship

Dec. 27

Texas Bowl

Syracuse 21, Minnesota 17

Dec. 28

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
Kansas State 31, Michigan 14

Jan. 1

Taxslayer.com Gator Bowl
Nebraska 24, Georgia 19

Outback Bowl
LSU 21, Iowa 14

Capital One Bowl
South Carolina 34, Wisconsin 24

Rose Bowl
Michigan State 24, Stanford 20

Jan. 3

Discover Orange Bowl
Clemson 40, Ohio State 35



From left, Jon Zatechka, Sarah [Gutz] Zatechka, Seth Gutz and Sam Gutz pose for a photograph on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, 1997 at Tim and Dixie Gutz's home in Columbus. Jon and Sarah were engaged at the time, Sam was a senior in high school and Seth was just beginning college football. Later that year, Jon won a third national championship in the 2008 Orange Bowl in Miami.

Marriage to sister ties two Husker brother combinations together

Former Nebraska offensive lineman Jon Zatechka still holds onto his lone touchdown — an Ahman Green fumble he recovered in the end zone on his senior day back in 1997.

He dangles it, like a trophy, in front of his brothers-in-law Seth and Sam Gutz, who played the “skill positions” of wide receiver and quarterback, respectively.

He also holds his trophies over them. Zatechka won three national championships from 1994-97. The Gutzes, during their one season together at Nebraska, won zero — though Seth did help win a Big 12 title in 1999.

“There’s a lot of joking around,” Zatechka’s wife Sarah said. “Back at the lake there’s a lot of backyard football games going on ... there are definitely some jabs that go on.”

After his graduation in 1998, Jon married Seth and Sam Gutz’s sister Sarah. In the 15 years since, the two Nebraska families have

blended into one.

When the two first started dating, Zatechka was more myth than man to the Gutz family. Football kept him busy and also kept him away from her parents’ home in Columbus.

“It was just a running joke that ‘Who is this Jon Zatechka guy and does he really exist?’” Sarah Zatechka said.

After finally meeting her family, Zatechka began to talk to Sarah’s brother Seth about him possibly transferring to play at Nebraska, leaving his current team at Concordia University.

He told Seth that his speed and athleticism would be enough to get him on the field. In the fall after his sister’s engagement, Seth joined his brother Sam at Nebraska — their one year together.

Seth would earn Big 12 Academic Honor Roll recognition in each of his six semesters at Nebraska, but he would only play with his brother for a year before

Sam transferred to the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Meanwhile, Zatechka signed with the Arizona Cardinals and headed over to Europe to play in the NFL’s “farm system,” he said.

“To me, it was a great way to get as much playing time as possible,” Zatechka said. “Heck, it was a free trip to Europe.

“It was great, I had a blast over there. I’m a huge history buff.”

Injuries to both ACLs and nagging shoulder injuries forced him to end his career, however. He returned to Nebraska where he has worked selling medical devices ever since.

Seth Gutz started a career in the Arena Football League’s AF2 league, playing receiver for the Cape Fear Wildcats in North Carolina for a year before returning to Lincoln. He has worked for State Farm Insurance ever since.

His brother Sam left Nebraska after it became clear that Eric Crouch would win the starting quarterback job. He transferred to UNO where he moved to wingback. Now, he’s working for Kiewit in Omaha, with one of his main projects involving developing the area around Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln, overseeing the condos, apartments and en-

tertainment in the Railyard.

Jon’s brother Rob Zatechka played four years for the New York Giants before returning to Omaha for medical school. He now practices as an anesthesiologist.

The former Huskers get together at the Gutz’s parents’ home on White Tail Lake in Columbus every summer. Jon, Sarah, Sam and Rob come in from Omaha while Seth comes up from Lincoln.

They each have kids, 10 in total — plenty enough for a pick-up football game when they aren’t fishing or playing other yard games.

“Whether it’s playing horseshoes or washers out at the lake or pick up football games, there’s always a little competitiveness,” Jon Zatechka said.

When they hit the lake-side gridiron, all history falls by the wayside. Jon’s lone Husker touchdown is insignificant. The national and conference titles don’t matter.

It’s family vs. family. Gutz vs. Zatechka. Speed vs. size.

More often than not, the home team wins.

“Seth and Sam come out on top, I’ve got to bow out to them,” Jon Zatechka said. “Their bodies aren’t as beat up and they’re a little quicker.

“But once I get ahold of them, it’s over.”

CATCHING UP WITH ZATECHKA, GUTZ BROTHERS

BY CHRIS PETERS



Campbell represents Nebraska on bowling team



IN BOWLING CIRCLES, NEBRASKA IS A BIG DEAL. IN TERMS OF NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS, THE PROGRAM IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE HISTORY OF ORGANIZED COMPETITION, AND IT IS A SIGNIFICANT

DRAW TO YOUNG BOWLERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION AND EVEN GLOBE.

Because of that, the Huskers recruit internationally, only carrying one athlete from their home state. That athlete is Bellevue native April Campbell.

"I always wanted to come to Nebraska since I started taking bowling seriously," Campbell said. "They are the best program in the nation for bowling, so it was the best choice."

Although Nebraska bowling is known across the nation, Campbell is more familiar with the team's success and the subsequent fan support than most. She said her teammates were surprised by it when they first joined the team, but crazy Husker fans were nothing new to her growing up just down the road from Lincoln.

"I think (my teammates) had a little bit of an idea because in the bowling community Nebraska is known," Campbell said. "I think when they did their research, they knew about it, but I don't think they understood the full scale of what they were getting into."

Although bowling is considered a "minor" sport by most, it's still a surprising draw, according to Campbell.

"When we held our home tournament, we didn't expect a bunch of people to come, but there were people there we had never seen before," she said. "It's cool how the passion spreads down to the smaller sports too."

Campbell is looking for a breakout season in front

of the home fans in 2014. A freshman in eligibility this year, she redshirted a season ago because the team was loaded in front of her.

"It was hard for me to sit out because all I wanted to do was help the team bowl, but you have to do what it takes for the team," Campbell said. "They had a good team last year as it was, so they didn't need me in there playing. I just learned that you have to support your team no matter what, whether you are bowling or not."

Campbell has been the lead bowler in the early tournaments this season, and that's a spot she doesn't plan on giving up.

"As long as I keep doing what I'm doing, I think I'll be in the lineup every week," she said. "But a lot of that has to do with how the rest of the girls are doing too."

Comparing yourself to the rest of Nebraska's team can be a humbling experience for anyone, as can be comparing this team to last season's national championship squad - something the Campbell is trying not to do.

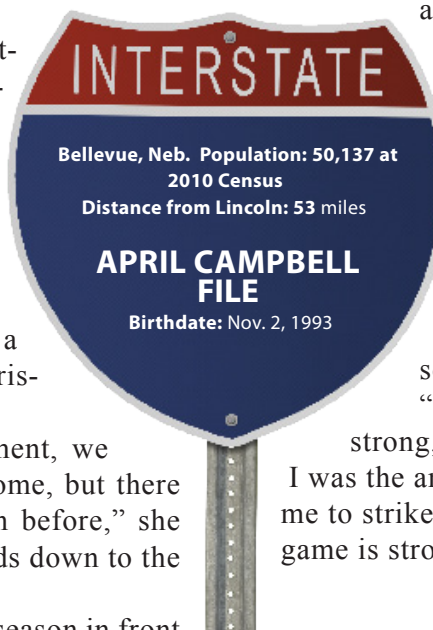
There's enough pressure on her already just playing at Nebraska with the history before her.

"Obviously all the girls on the team and the coaches, we want to do well, and the fans want us to do well, so there's a little bit of pressure," Campbell said. "But it's just as much pressure as you would see at anywhere else."

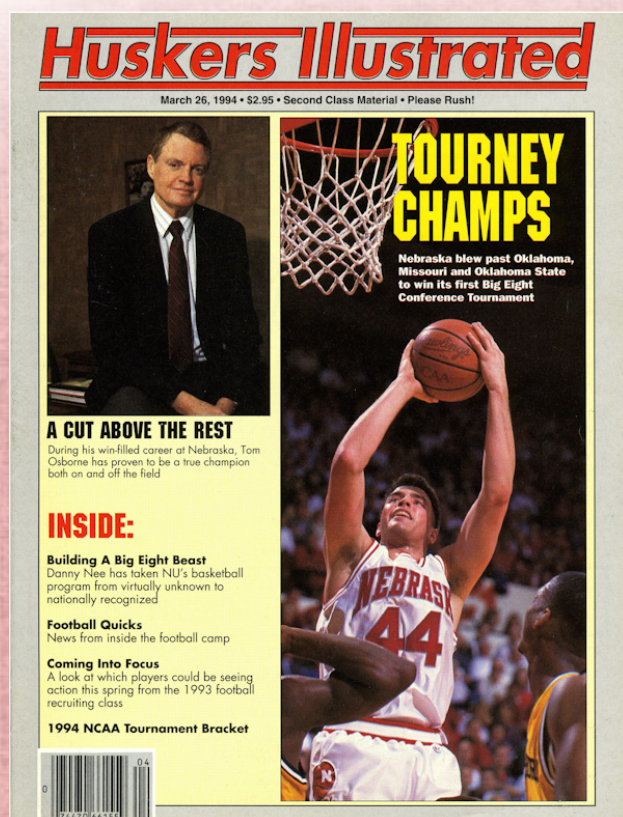
Campbell said she's well equipped to handle the pressure in her first season in the lineup.

"I think my mental game is really strong," she said. "All throughout high school

I was the anchor, so there was a lot of pressure on me to strike out or do whatever. I think my mental game is strong from that."



~ Story by Lanny Holstein



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 21, 1992

Forward Karen Jennings (pictured below left) hangs a school-record 48 points on Big 8 rival Kansas State, helping the Huskers to an 87-82 win. Jennings would finish her 4-year Husker career with a school-record 2,405 points. Her 22 field goals made in the game still stand as the most in Nebraska history, as does her field goal percentage of .846 (minimum 15 shots attempted).

Feb. 2, 2011

Alliance, Neb., native Jordan Hooper ties a school-record, nailing seven three-pointers in a 76-69 loss at Missouri in Nebraska's final Big 12 season. Her performance tied three other Huskers, including Amy Stephens, who hit the mark twice in the 1988-89 season. Hooper would fall one shot shy of tying the record in December of the next season.

Feb. 3, 2007

Danielle Page swats 9 shots in a 76-67 win against Baylor, topping a school record of 7 she set against Cal State Bakersfield earlier in the 2006-07 season.

Feb. 7, 1977

Kathy Hawkins swipes 10 balls from Wichita State, setting a school record for steals in a game. Four players, including Hawkins, would get as close as 9 steals on six different instances, but none would match her record-setting game in a 55-46 Husker win.

Feb. 17, 1976

Kathy Hawkins dishes out 19 assists against Kearney State, breaking a school record she set three weeks prior. Her totals of 19, 17 and 15 assists in the 1976 calendar year still stand as the three highest totals in Nebraska history.

Feb. 27, 2010

Forward Kelsey Griffin shoots a school-record 18 free throws, sinking 17. She finishes the game with 19 points, 17 rebounds and 5 blocks, leading the No. 3 Huskers to a 67-51 win over Big 12 rival Missouri to remain unbeaten.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 25, 2003

Iowa State stuffs Nebraska, blocking 17 shots – the most ever against NU. The Huskers fail to get enough offense going to overcome the Cyclones and fall 71-61.

Jan. 30, 2001

Kimani Ffriend blocks 7 shots against Kansas State, helping the team to a two-point win over the Wildcats. His block total matches the school's best conference blocking performance.

Feb. 1, 1986

Dave Hoppen, Nebraska's all-time leading scorer with 2,167 points, sustains a knee injury at Colorado. Although the injury

ends Hoppen's college career, he would go on to play in the NBA from 1988 to 1993. The 1986 Nebraska squad would go on to earn the school's first officially NCAA Tournament bid, but would lose to Western Kentucky in the first round of the Southeast Regional.

Feb. 8, 1958

Wilt Chamberlin scores 46 points on Nebraska – the highest point total by any opponent in Nebraska history. Chamberlin's Kansas Jayhawks destroy the Huskers 102-46. Chamberlin set two more NU opponent records in the game, shooting 23 free throws and making 18. The 56-point loss was the most lopsided loss in Nebraska history. Chamberlin would finish his final season with the Jayhawks in 1958 before joining the Harlem Globetrotters. After one year with Harlem, he joined the NBA's Philadelphia Warriors, who chose him with a territorial pick in the 1959 NBA Draft.

Feb. 13, 2007

Aleks Maric (pictured above right) nets 41 points against Kansas State, but falls one point shy of the school record, set by Eric Piatkowski in 1994. The Huskers top the Wildcats 74-63 to improve to 15-9. Maric adds 8 rebounds and 3 blocks in his 29 minutes on the court. His 25 free throw attempts still stand as a school record.

Feb. 14, 1994

The Huskers (pictured above left) keep pace with Oklahoma and take the game into overtime. Although Nebraska would tie a school record for regular season conference points scored, the Huskers would fall 115-111 in Norman, Okla. Nebraska went on to win the Big 8 tourney.

Feb. 20, 1999

Cookie Belcher (pictured below right) snags a school record 8 steals, but the Huskers wind up losing 73-68 at Texas Tech. He would finish the 1998-99 season with 102 steals, a single-season NU record. Belcher's final season in 2001 saw him set school records for games played (131), games started (128), minutes played (4,095) and steals (353).

Feb. 26, 2000

Near the end of an abysmal season, Husker coach Danny Nee leads his team to a 69-64 victory in the home finale against Colorado. Although the team would finish tied for the most losses in school history and wouldn't win a single game away from home, the win at the Devaney Center made Nee the school's winningest coach, edging out Joe Cipriano by one win.

Feb. 27, 2002

Cary Cochran sinks a school record 8 three-pointers in a 75-55 win against Baylor, cashing in on 8 of his 13 shots. The previous season, Cochran set a school record for 3-point percentage, making all 5 of his shots. By the end of the 2001-02 season, Cochran would amass a school record 89 3-pointers.



'Corndawgs' enjoy Cornhusker win

By Chris Peters

Huskers Illustrated

Husker Nation collectively groaned when it was announced that Nebraska would play Georgia in a Florida bowl game for the second-straight year, and things were no different in the Peach State.

Members of the alumni group Georgians for Nebraska traveled to the Capital One Bowl after the 2012 season, bringing approximately 100 fans to watch Georgia win. This year, around one-fourth of that number traveled to Jacksonville.

"We were like 'No, not again!'" GFN member Mary Pritchard said.

"A lot of us were hoping we would go west," said Jackie Maggi, another member.

They, like countless other Huskers, wanted the team to play in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl against a former Big 12 foe. But once the initial disappointment wore off, they began to see a silver lining.

Jacksonville is only a five-hour drive from Coldbrews Sports Bar and Grill in Atlanta, where they watch the Big Red on Saturdays.

Member Jerry Sanders has been able to watch the Huskers play in the last three bowl games because of the closeness to home.

"If it was in Phoenix, we weren't going to be able to go to the game," he said. "We were actually hoping it was where it was, and the fact that it was Georgia didn't bother me at all ... we were looking for a rematch."

Sanders stayed in the same hotel as the team and actually bumped into coach Bo Pelini on a few occasions, snapping a picture with the coach and later joking that he was "stalking" them. On game day, he tailgated outside the stadium and endured heckles from a 4-to-1 Georgia crowd.

"When it was third down for Nebraska, you couldn't hear anything," Sanders said. "It was just like a home game for them."

Back in Atlanta, the Husker faithful were packing into Coldbrews, a bar once occupied by Georgia fans and Ohio State fans.

When they moved into the bar a few years ago, they immediately became the bar's dominant fanbase, carving out their own home turf in enemy territory.

They even shipped in Runzas and Valentino's Pizza a few years back.

At first, they would get 400 people for pay-per-view games, but once the Huskers joined the Big Ten and games were easier to watch from home, the number dwindled down to



Jerry and Mary Sanders post with some other "Corndawgs" at Gator Bowl.

around 60 on an average Saturday. Still, the Husker red out-numbers the Georgia red in the bar 10-to-1.

As the game approached, Georgia fans – who GFN president Ric Rosseter called "the dumbest fans I've ever come across" – started the smack-talk. Pritchard remembers one fan saying "I can't believe we're playing Nebraska again, it's going to be a slaughter."

On game day, Pritchard tried to drag her son and his girlfriend – both Georgia graduates – to the bar for the game, but they wouldn't go. She threw on her homemade "CornDawgs" shirt and drove away without them in her half-Husker, half-Bulldog decorated automobile.

At the bar, the group only expected 25 or 30 people. The rest would be at the game, at home with family or friends or still in bed, nursing a New Year's hangover.

Instead, 65 showed up. When receiver Quincy Enunwa hauled in a 99-yard touchdown pass, Coldbrews exploded.

"It was like somebody put a stick of dynamite under the place and just hit the plunger," Rosseter said. "It was just like Alex Henery's field goal against Colorado. Just the place erupted."

By game's end, the Georgia fans had cleared out of the bar and out of the stadium. A few more rounds of "Dear Old Nebraska U," a few more raffle prizes and a few more beers, and the game was history. The CornDawgs wore their scarlet and cream with pride the next week. It was less a means of gloating and more a means of getting even for the team that beat them last season and tormented them in the weeks leading up to the game.



The Sanders take a photo with Bo Pelini in the Sawgrass Marriott Hotel.

Rosseter sees it as a statement. He's glad the Huskers and other teams like Oklahoma – who upset No. 3 Alabama – can even the score a little bit with SEC football fans.

"I'm sick of the SEC hype. I hear that crap every day," he said. "I just want to stick my finger down my throat and gag."

"The thought around here was that it wasn't that Nebraska won the game, it was that Georgia gave it to them. That wasn't the game I watched. The game I watched had them hold Georgia out of the end zone."

"That was the best game they played all year."

And even though it was a second-straight year with the 'Dawgs and a second straight year in Florida, for the CornDawgs, the result couldn't have been better.

HUSKERS IN THE



Matt Slauson • Offensive Line • Chicago Bears

STORY BY CHRIS PETERS

Matt Slauson still feels like a tourist in the NFL. He steps onto the field and lines up against future Hall of Famers almost every weekend. He admits he's still star struck. He's gotten autographs from some of the NFL's best defenders – defensive ends Jared Allen and Julius Peppers and linebacker Brian Urlacher have all left unique bruises behind.

One time, he thought he had Urlacher beat. The middle linebacker wasn't looking. He never saw Slauson, a guard for the New York Jets at the time, coming.

"I thought, 'Man I'm going to de-cleat a Hall of Fame player,'" Slauson said.

He didn't. Instead, Urlacher turned, lowered his shoulder and blew Slauson up.

But those are rare occurrences. Most of the time, he's reliable. Even when the Jets drafted a guard to replace Slauson in his starting left guard spot, he battled through and earned his spot.

He's started 60 of the 63 games in which he's appeared during his NFL career. For the first few years, he reunited with former-Nebraska coach Bill Callahan, who was the offensive line coach in New York. After Callahan left and Slauson's contract expired, he hit the road.

The Jets wanted to keep him, but didn't offer much. They only guaranteed him a couple years.

But Callahan had connections in Chicago. His former offensive coordinator with the Oakland Raiders, Marc Trestman, was the new head coach of the Chicago Bears. Aaron Kromer, his former offensive line coach in Oakland, was the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach with the Bears.

Best of all, they offered him a longer contract.

"What it came down to was doing the best thing for my family," Slauson said. "The Bears offered me the best chance at earning a long-term secure deal, which I knew I had little chance of that at the Jets.

"Plus my wife was born and raised nearby. Her grandparents are here, she's got a lot of aunts, uncles and cousins. For her it's like coming back home."

Slauson started every game of the season at guard for the improving Bears offensive line, helping the team to an 8-8 record, one win shy of the playoffs.

During the offseason, he and his family move back to Nebraska. He works out at his alma mater with strength coach James Dobson and his family gets some time with relatives until Slauson reports back to the team in April.

He still maintains strong ties to the university, but one Nebraska tradition had to be left in Lincoln.



Matt Slauson blocks against the Green Bay Packers in the regular-season finale.

COURTESY OF CHICAGO BEARS

Late in his collegiate career, Slauson began painting his face with eye-black, at first as a joke, then later as superstition.

After wearing the paint for a few games, coaches told him to "wipe that crap off" his face before facing Kansas in Lawrence. The Huskers lost to the Jayhawks for the first time in 36 years. Ever since, he superstitiously wore the war paint.

After being drafted in the sixth round of the 2009 NFL Draft, Slauson's New York Jets teammates confronted him about it.

"The veteran offensive linemen knew that I did that and they put a stop to it," Slauson said. "They don't want to stand out or do anything flashy."

In his five years in the league, he has needed more than superstition to contain some of the league's Pro Bowlers and future Hall of Famers.

He still gets a little excited each time he sees them on the field, like the first time he saw Lance Briggs line up.

Now, a teammate of Briggs, he gets to see him with the war paint off.

"It's just amazing to see all those guys and see how they are in real life," Slauson said. "When you sit back and you are on the outside looking in, you're thinking these are superhuman monsters. To see that they're down-to-earth guys, it's just cool."

Former Huskers Lavonte David and Ndamukong Suh were each chosen by the Associated Press as All-Pro first-team selections.

The former Blackshirts were among a group of 25 players to earn first-team All-Pro honors on Friday. Nebraska was one of only four schools with two or more first-team selections, including Texas and Tennessee with three each and Wisconsin who

also had two selections. Nebraska was the only school with a pair of first-team defensive players.

In his fourth season with the Detroit Lions, Suh earned All-Pro honors for the third time. He was also a first-team selection in 2010, while earning second-team accolades in 2012. This season, Suh made 49 tackles including 5.5 sacks for the Lions.

In his second season with the Tampa

Bay Buccaneers, David has emerged as one of the league's most complete defenders. David ranked sixth in the NFL in tackles with 144, including 106 solo tackles and six sacks. David also had five interceptions, the second-most among all linebackers in the NFL and his 15 passes defended ranked fourth among linebackers.

David and Suh were both standout defensive performers for Nebraska under

Head Coach Bo Pelini.

Suh was the Associated Press Player of the Year in 2009 and won the Lombardi, Outland, Nagurski and Bednarik awards while finishing fourth in the Heisman voting.

David was the Big Ten Linebacker of the Year and a first-team All-American in 2011, while finishing his career with 285 tackles to rank fourth in school history.

WRESTLING

Jake Sueflohn (149), James Green (157) and Robert Kokesh (174) each won their respective weight division titles to lead Nebraska to the team championship at the Reno Tournament of Champions a few weeks ago.

The Huskers finished with 159 points, 56 ahead of second-place Wyoming. North Carolina finished third with 97 points.

After Sueflohn took a first-round bye, he won back-to-back major decisions before capping his perfect day with three consecutive decisions. He won the championship match 7-1 over The Citadel's Matt Frisch. Sueflohn, the No. 6 wrestler in InterMat's rankings, improves to 18-3 on the season.

Green pinned three of his five opponents in Reno, while adding a technical fall and one decision. He took down Andy McCulley of Wyoming in the championship bout, 9-5. Green, the No. 4 wrestler by InterMat, moved to 18-0 and earned his third tournament title of the season. He won the Warren Williamson/Daktronics Open and Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational titles as well.

Kokesh capped his performance with a 3-1 decision over Southern Oregon's Brock Gutches in the finals. Kokesh added a decision in his opening bout, but earned two pins and two major decisions in his other matches. His quickest pin came in the third round in one minute and two seconds. Kokesh improved to 20-1 this season.

Tim Lambert (125) and Austin Wilson (165) each made it to the finals in their respective weight classes as

Robert Kokesh is 21-1 on the season.



well, but ultimately took runner-up honors. Lambert went 4-1 with a major decision before falling to Wyoming's Tyler Cox in the finals by a 4-3 margin. Wilson opened with back-to-back technical falls before a major decision in the third round. He lost to Corey Mock of Tennessee-Chattanooga, 9-1, in the championship match.

At 141 pounds, Anthony Abidin earned a third-place finish, winning a 13-0 major decision over CSU-Bakersfield's Ian Nickell in his final match. Spencer Johnson (197) and Collin Jensen (Heavyweight) each finished fifth. Colton McCrystal (133), Ben Morgan (133), Brandon Wilbourn (165), McCoy Newberg (174), TJ Dudley (184) and Aaron Studebaker (197) also competed at the Reno Tournament of Champions for the Huskers.

On Jan. 3 the No. 8 Nebraska wrestling team (6-0) won the final five matches of the dual to overcome a 12-9 deficit to Wyoming en route to a 26-12 triumph over the Cowboys.

Sueflohn (149), Green (157), Wilson (165), Kokesh (174) and Dudley (184) all earned victories during the Huskers' closing run.

No. 6 Sueflohn tied the dual at 12 following his 4-0 decision over Brandon Richardson. After a first-period takedown for the junior from Watertown, Wis.,

Sueflohn added a second-period escape before an additional point for riding time.

No. 4 Green improved to 19-0 on the season after notching a 5-1 decision over No. 20 Andy McCulley. Following a scoreless first period, Green earned a reversal in the second period and tacked on a takedown in the third period with a point for riding time.

At 165 pounds, No. 14 Wilson struck first against Wyoming's Dakota Friesth to take a 3-0 lead into the third period. Friesth responded with a takedown to cut the lead to 3-2 before a stalling penalty gave Wilson a 4-2 advantage. Wilson, a sophomore, earned a riding time point to win by a 5-2 margin.

No. 4 Kokesh dominated from start to finish in a 19-4 technical fall over the Cowboys' Jace Jensen. Kokesh earned six takedowns in the match en route to his third technical fall of the season.

In the final match of the dual, No. 16 Dudley battled Benjamin Stroh back and forth before emerging with a 9-6 victory. Dudley trailed 0-2 in the first period before a last-second takedown gave him a 3-2 lead. The pair traded reversals in the second period before a late nearfall for Dudley. Nursing a 7-4 lead in the third period, Dudley chose down and earned a pair of escapes for

the final result.

Nebraska collected victories in two of the first five matches, with Collin Jensen (HWT) and Colton McCrystal (133) adding points for the Huskers.

After Spencer Johnson (197) fell by a 4-3 decision in the opening match of the dual, Jensen responded with an 8-3 triumph over Leland Pfeifer. Jensen earned two takedowns in the first period and added a third in the final period before notching a riding time point at the finish. No. 10 Tim Lambert (125) fell in a back-and-forth match against No. 8 Tyler Cox, 3-1, before McCrystal won by forfeit at 133 pounds. At 141 pounds, redshirt freshman Ben Morgan was pinned by Cole Mendenhall in 6:11.

TRACK & FIELD

The Nebraska track and field team held in its annual intrasquad meet a few weeks ago at the Devaney Center indoor track. The red team earned the narrow win over the white team by a 137.5-136.5 margin. Both teams took down four meet records. Freshman Kadeia Baird made a splash in her Husker debut, posting a new meet record time of 23.85 seconds in the 200-meter dash. Junior Chantal Duncan smashed an intrasquad mark with a 1:32.74 performance in the 600-meter competition as part of the victorious red squad.

On the men's side, senior Dexter McKenzie started off his final year notching a meet record in the 200-meter dash at 21.16 seconds. The final record of the day was taken down the last event of the meet, the men's 4x400-meter relay. Jake Bender, Christian Sanderfer, London Hawk and Jackson Barbour put together a 3:14.83 showing in the relay for the red team.

The Huskers now continue training for the start of the season, as they are set to open at home on Jan. 17 with the two-day Holiday Inn Invitational.

Coaches Corner

with Tim Miles

Head Men's Basketball Coach



Huskers Illustrated reporter Lanny Holstein recently visited with Nebraska men's basketball coach Tim Miles, who is in his second season, to talk about his team's non-conference results and thoughts on the Big Ten schedule ahead.

HI: Is it tough to keep your guys from looking ahead with all the Top 25 teams coming up on the schedule?

TM: I've actually emphasized looking ahead, so they know what they are dealing with. We try to take games in two, three, four- game increments. I took a look at the KenPom stats, and if you watch any of the advanced math stuff, 11 games remaining are two possession games and two more are seven point games, so we have an exceptional number of close games.

HI: So it's not a typical "one game at a time" mentality from you?

TM: No. It is, but I think when you look at the big picture, this particular team has the ability to play up with some teams and also play down to some teams. Hopefully, we are able to rise to the occasion. Against Creighton, we just weren't. Against UMass, we were, and we had a chance.

HI: You are a big body language guy. What are your thoughts on this team's body language?

TM: I think we show some immaturity with our body language. I think we show frustration easily. I think we've got some guys that don't comprehend what body language means. They're sullen. It needs to get better, but I think it's a maturity issue.

HI: How has the team settled into Pinnacle Bank Arena?

TM: I still don't think we shoot well enough at Pinnacle Bank Arena, especially on free throws. Our guards are missing a lot of free throws it seems like to me. I think those things just take time to get comfortable with. I don't know if one season will do it justice.

HI: Who's been your most consistent player through the nonconference?

TM: Probably Leslee Smith has been the closest to consistent, and he's not where I want him to be. I would say he's been a guy that we know what we're getting from him every time. That and Walter Pitchford hitting a three on the right side of the floor to start the game.

This Week

N

Husker Athletics

Thursday, Jan. 9

Women's Basketball

Michigan State at East Lansing, Mich. at 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Michigan at Pinnacle Bank Arena 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 10

Wrestling

Indiana at Bob Devaney Center. at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 11

Men's Gymnasium

Rocky Mountain Open at Colorado Springs, Co., at 6 p.m.

Women's Gymnasium

Northern Illinois at Bob Devaney Center at 6 p.m.

Wrestling

Penn at Bob Devaney Center. at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 12

Men's Basketball

Purdue at West Lafayette, Ind., at 11 a.m.

Women's Basketball

Illinois at Champaign, Ill., at 1 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 16

Women's Basketball

Minnesota at Pinnacle Bank Arena at 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17

Mens & Womens Track & Field

Holiday Inn Invitational at Devaney Center

Bowling

Mid-Winter Class at Jonesboro, Ark.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Mens & Womens Track & Field

Holiday Inn Invitational at Devaney Center

Wrestling

Iowa at Bob Devaney Center at 4:30 p.m.

Women's Gymnastics

Ozone Collegiate Classic at Knoxville, Tenn. at 8 p.m.

Wrestling with Depth

**Husker
coach Mark
Manning
pleased
with tight
competition
at a number
of different
weight
classes for
No. 8
Nebraska**

Nebraska wrestling coach Mark Manning yells encouragement to one of his wrestlers.



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED FILE PHOTO

By Lanny Holstein
Huskies Illustrated

Depth is key.

If the old adage is true, Nebraska wrestling is in good shape this season. For the first time in a while, the Huskers have some real competition at a number of weight classes early in the year. Coach Mark Manning likes what he's seen from his team in the wrestling room.

"It's tremendous because it's something that we haven't always had, that kind of competition and competitive environment," Manning said. "It's there on a daily basis and making sure every day counts. (The wrestlers) have to stay on their toes and keep an edge about themselves. Long term, they're going to make each other better, and it's going to make our team better."

Manning said the tightest battle is at 197 pounds, where se-

nior Caleb Kolb and junior Spencer Johnson are duking it out each day for mat time.

"Caleb has a sprained ankle that has kind of been lingering on," Manning said. "But those guys are really close. We don't lose much and it's nice to have that. That'll probably play out the rest of the year."

At 184, Nebraska has a trio of freshman who have been tight all season, but T.J. Dudley is starting to separate himself from the pack, according to Manning. At 165, things are close as well.

"With Austin Wilson and Micah Barnes, we have some depth there," Manning said. "Micah is not that far away from Austin, but Austin has a little bit more experience. It's a good thing."

The lineup isn't typically a stable unit, according to Manning, guys move in and out, but on a normal year, it isn't necessarily because of the extreme competition Nebraska has this

year.

"In our sport, you can have injuries, you can get a guy sick, so you better have really quality backups," Manning said. "You have to have people that are ready to go and developing in the room so that you don't miss much. Everyone is going to suffer injuries throughout the year. You hope they aren't season ending."

Ideally, Manning said he would like to settle on a lineup if he could find stalwarts at each spot. It's not there yet, but it's getting closer, he said.

"I think our lineup is getting pretty well solidified as far as Tim Lambert at 125, Colton McCristal (133), Anthony Abidin (141), Jake Sueflohn (149), James Green (157), Austin Wilson (165), and Robert Kokesh (174)," Manning said.

The Huskers were ranked No. 8 nationally, as of this writing, and a lot of that had to do with their depth. Guys not in the lineup were still coming to practice trying to break through.

"It's two things. Wrestle-offs are part of it, and it's how you compete," Manning said of what he looks for in his lineup. "There are some open tournaments that if you are not a starter, you can go to. It's those results, and if you get to wrestle in a dual meet or a tournament, you should make the most of it. That's kind of the criteria."

10 questions

with Desiree' Stephens
Junior All-Around Gymnast

1 Your dad, Cory Wiedel, started Complete Nutrition. What's his athletic background?

DS: He's from a small town in Nebraska, so he did it all. He suited up for football and then went out for track and then I don't know, whatever small town people do.

3 Complete Nutrition sells all kinds of supplements for athletes. Do you use any of your dad's products?

DS: I did in high school, but the NCAA won't allow us to take those kind of things because they are not third party approved, NCAA approved. I can't take his stuff now, but in high school I did.

4 What kind of difference did the supplements make?

DS: I don't know if it made a difference in my gymnastics, but athletic ability I think it did. For gymnastics, it's all about being perfect, but for athleticism, it gave me energy, it gave me power, it gave me the ability to keep going in the conditioning part of gymnastics.

5 What kind of nutrition program are you on now?

DS: We have a nutritionist for our team. She meets with us every Tuesday, and we talk about stuff and make program plans with her. We get multivitamins and fish oil daily to keep our Vitamin D up, and we get the protein and the refuel stuff that you need. We really use nutrition to our advantage.

7 Physically though, gymnastics has to be tough on you as well, right?

DS: Oh, yeah. When we fly up in the air, we have to land on a four inch beam. It's all of our body weight coming down, but 10 times that because of gravity. I don't know exactly, I'm not a science major.

8 You've been mostly a floor and vault contributor thus far in your career. Would you like to get out there in the other events as well?

DS: That's the intention. Our team is doing really well, so it's a fight just to get in the lineup right now. It's fun because the people that make it, they are the best ones going out. If I don't make it one meet, I'll try it the next one.

9 What are your goals this season?

DS: I want to help out the team more than I ever have. I just did the two events last year and had some good starter scores, but this year I want to put some big numbers out there. With where I'm at skill-wise, I just need to work on my mental game, and we'll be there.



2 Did your parents get you into sports early?

DS: I think I did more than most gymnasts growing up. What helped the most was that they allowed me to do what was best for me. When I was 10, I decided that soccer and gymnastics were the big two sports at the time. They left it up to me, and I chose gymnastics. I thought that was a pretty good route.

6 How tough is gymnastics on your body?

DS: Very tough. I guess I compare it to wrestling because people think that wrestling is really difficult. In wrestling, you are pushing yourself to go against someone that is the same weight as you. You are trying to mentally get over them and use all of your energy on one thing, and that's basically what we're doing. Ours is just against ourselves.

10 How much does the mental part of competing matter?

DS: It's 99 percent mental. By college, we have all the skills. Maybe we are tweaking them, but it's all about what you don't change, and can you do it the same? We've done it in practice before you see it in competition.

-As interviewed by Huskers Illustrated's Lanny Holstein

Huskers have dropped three in a row

By Brian Rosenthal

Huskers Illustrated

The grind has begun.

The Nebraska men's basketball team, picked for a second consecutive season to finish last in the Big Ten Conference, is playing three ranked teams among its first five opponents to open league play.

Sound familiar?

Well, that's the same scenario the Huskers faced to start last year's Big Ten grind, when Nebraska started 0-5, with losses to ranked teams Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State, but rebounded to eventually win five conference games, in addition to a victory in the Big Ten Tournament.

Nebraska opened this season's Big Ten slate with a 67-57 loss at No. 22 Iowa and 84-52 setback at No. 2 Ohio State.

"Like Mick Cronin said, 'Being in the Big Ten is like having your throat stepped on for three months,'" said Tim Miles, the second-year Nebraska men's basketball coach, referencing a conversation he had with the Cincinnati coach after a Dec. 28 loss to the Bearcats. "And it is. But that's what we signed up for, and that's what we're excited about."

Nebraska finished its non-conference season with an 8-4 record, or one victory shy of its minimum victory goal when the season began. None of the losses was by more than 15 points, although the Huskers fell behind by 30 points in the first half of an 82-67 loss at Creighton, a game in which they were never really competitive.

That's not been a problem since, although Nebraska hasn't exactly gotten over the hump against better competition yet, either.

"It's a team that needs to be more mentally tough, more mentally together," Miles said, "and then I think we've got a chance, because I think we've got the chance to knock off some of these

guys."

Six Huskers had never played in a Big Ten game when the Huskers traveled to Iowa City for their only scheduled game against the Hawkeyes this season. One of them, sophomore guard Terran Petteway, scored a team-high 20 points, his third straight 20-point game, and team-high sixth of the season.

Another, forward Walter Pitchford, had his second career double-double, with 13 points and 12 rebounds, and extended his nation-leading streak without a turnover to 296 minutes this season.

"Obviously, we're more talented than the team we had last year, it's just that there are times where we don't trust each other," said Ray Gallegos, the team's lone scholarship senior. "I think as far as right now, we've made an improvement on that as far as coming together and playing for each other."

Nebraska's biggest challenge in Big Ten play will be finding ways to mask its interior deficiencies against a league loaded with size. Miles has repeatedly noted that his team is one or two big, long players away from being where it needs to be, or wants to be. And help isn't on the way until next season, so ...

"We've got guys going in there that are smaller and mismatched a little bit, but we've got to figure it out," Miles said. "Bottom line is, if we're going to be good, we've got to figure it out."

Juco transfer Leslee Smith, a 6-foot-8, 255 pounds, is Nebraska's top rebounder, averaging 6.2 per game, but comes off the bench, and at times is limited because of knee soreness. Pitchford, at 6-11, 235, is playing out of position at center.

While Nebraska's challenges inside were anticipated, the inconsistencies at point guard have been somewhat of a surprise, even

2013-14 Men's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 4, 2013	UNK (exhibition)	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 91-60
Nov. 8, 2013	Florida Gulf Coast	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 77-59 1-0
Nov. 12, 2013	Western Illinois	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 62-47, 2-0
Nov. 17, 2013	S.C. State	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 83-57, 3-0
Nov. 21, 2013	UMASS	Charleston, S.C.	L, 96-90, 3-1
Nov. 22, 2013	UAB	Charleston, S.C.	L, 87-74, 3-2
Nov. 24, 2013	Georgia	Charleston, S.C.	W, 73-65 4-2
Nov. 30, 2013	Northern Illinois	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 63-58 5-2
Dec. 4, 2013	Miami	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 60-49 6-2
Dec. 8, 2013	Creighton	Omaha, Neb.	L, 82-67 6-3
Dec. 14, 2013	Arkansas State	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 79-67 7-3
Dec. 21, 2013	The Citadel	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 77-62 8-3
Dec. 28, 2013	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio	L, 74-59 8-4
Dec. 31, 2013	Iowa	Iowa City, Ia.	L, 67-57 8-5
Jan. 4, 2013	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio	L, 84-53 8-6
Jan. 9, 2013	Michigan	Lincoln (PBA)	8 p.m. (ESPN2)
Jan. 12, 2013	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.	11 a.m./3:30
Jan. 20, 2013	Ohio State	Lincoln (PBA)	6 p.m.
Jan. 23, 2013	Penn State	University Park, Pa.	7 p.m. (ESPN2)
Jan. 26, 2013	Minnesota	Lincoln (PBA)	5 p.m.
Jan. 30, 2013	Indiana	Lincoln (PBA)	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 5, 2013	Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 8, 2013	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.	Noon (ESPN2)
Feb. 12, 2013	Illinois	Lincoln (PBA)	7 p.m.
Feb. 16, 2013	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	2 p.m.
Feb. 20, 2013	Penn State	Lincoln (PBA)	6 p.m. (ESPN2)
Feb. 23, 2013	Purdue	Lincoln (PBA)	11 a.m./3 p.m.
Feb. 26, 2013	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.	8 p.m.
March 1, 2013	Northwestern	Lincoln (PBA)	4 p.m. (ESPN2)
March 5, 2013	Indiana	Bloomington, Ind.	6 p.m.
March 9, 2013	Wisconsin	Lincoln (PBA)	4:15 or 6:30 p.m.
March 13, 2013	Big Ten Tourney	Indianapolis, Ind.	TBA

considering the Huskers are starting a true freshman, Tai Webster, and playing another newcomer, juco transfer Deverell Biggs.

"I think that when you look at it, of the five spots, it's been the least-productive spot on a consistent basis," Miles said. "Deverell's played some one and two, but even at the point, his assist-to-turnover ratio is not where it should be. Benny (Parker) has done a nice job defensively. As he looks for his shot – Benny makes

threes in practice, he's got to take that and put it in game form, too.

"And Tai's a true freshman, and true freshmen struggle sometimes. I don't think there's any question he's been through some struggles – play good for a while, not so good, then pretty good, and back and forth.

"We just got to keep battling. I believe in all of our guys. I think that when we look at it, as we improve that, that's where we'll improve the most."

Deverell Biggs drives to the basket against Miami on Dec. 4. The Huskers have gone 2-4 since that big win.



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

NU riding five-game winning streak

2013-14 Women's Basketball Schedule

Oct 27, 2013	Pitt State (exh.)	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 98-47
Nov. 3, 2013	UNK (exhibition)	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 75-34
Nov. 8, 2013	UCLA	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 77-49 1-0
Nov. 11, 2013	Alabama	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 62-48 2-0
Nov. 15, 2013	Utah	Salt Lake City	W, 75-69 3-0
Nov. 21, 2013	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 78-55 4-0
Nov. 24, 2013	Southern	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 87-64 5-0
Nov. 27, 2013	UMASS-Lowell	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 77-42 6-0
Nov. 30, 2013	Washington State	Lincoln (PBA)	L, 76-72 6-1
Dec. 4, 2013	North Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.	L, 74-62 6-2
Dec. 8, 2013	Utah State	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 95-75 7-2
Dec. 14, 2013	Creighton	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 63-38 8-2
Dec. 21, 2013	South Dakota	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 87-53 9-2
Dec. 29, 2013	Oral Roberts	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 89-53 10-2
Jan. 2, 2013	Northwestern	Lincoln (PBA)	W, 66-65 11-2
Jan. 9, 2013	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	6 p.m.
Jan. 12, 2013	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.	1 p.m.
Jan. 16, 2013	Minnesota	Lincoln (PBA)	8 p.m.
Jan. 19, 2013	Purdue	Lincoln (PBA)	4 p.m.
Jan. 26, 2013	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.	4 p.m.
Jan. 29, 2013	Michigan	Lincoln (PBA)	7 p.m.
Feb. 1, 2013	Iowa	Iowa City, Ia.	2 p.m.
Feb. 5, 2013	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.	7pm.
Feb. 8, 2013	Michigan State	Lincoln (PBA)	2 p.m.
Feb. 13, 2013	Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.	6 p.m.
Feb. 16, 2013	Indiana	Lincoln (PBA)	12pm.
Feb. 20, 2013	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio	6 p.m.
Feb. 24, 2013	Penn State	Lincoln (PBA)	6 p.m.
Feb. 27, 2013	Illinois	Lincoln (PBA)	TBA
March 2, 2013	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.	2 p.m.
March 6-9, 2013	Big Ten Tourney	Indianapolis, Ind.	TBA
March 22-25	NCAA 1st & 2nd	TBA	TBA

BIG TEN STANDINGS	CONFERENCE		OVERALL	
	W-L	Pct	W-L	Pct
1. Indiana	1-0	1.000	14-0	1.000
Nebraska	1-0	1.000	11-2	.846
Penn State	1-0	1.000	10-3	.769
Michigan	1-0	1.000	10-4	.714
Michigan State	1-0	1.000	9-5	.643
Wisconsin	1-0	1.000	8-5	.615
7. Ohio State	1-1	.500	11-7	.611
8. Purdue	0-1	.000	10-3	.763
Minnesota	0-1	.000	11-4	.733
Northwestern	0-1	.000	10-4	.714
Illinois	0-1	.000	7-7	.500
Iowa	0-2	.000	12-4	.750

Through games of Jan. 5

By Lanny Holstein
Huskers Illustrated

After running through the nonconference slate, posting a 12-2 record, coach Connie Yori's team is preparing for battle in the Big Ten Conference.

According to Yori, the Big Ten is as deep as it's ever been, with potential pitfalls at every turn. The Huskers may be the preseason favorite to win the league, but they nearly were upended in their first league contest, a 66-65 win over Northwestern.

"We feel like this is what the Big Ten's going to be this year," Yori said after the win. "There are going to be a lot of close games that come down to the wire. There's really good balance in this league."

Northwestern was not expected to challenge the Huskers the way they did, but they're a scrappy team with multiple kids who can score, according to Yori, and that's a dangerous combination.

"You can say that about a lot of the teams in this league," Yori said. "There are going to be a lot of weeks where half the ranked teams in the league lose."

Nebraska's non-conference schedule didn't provide it with many games near what it saw against the Wildcats.

Beyond a two-game stretch where the Huskers were beaten by Washington State 76-72 and No. 18 North Carolina 75-62, Nebraska wasn't challenged.

Its next closest game was a six-point win over Utah in mid-November.

Big Ten teams will try different approaches against the Huskers anyway, according to forward and leading scorer Jordan Hooper. The conference schedule will be another kind of challenge.

"I think teams will definitely watch film on us and change

what they do against us, so we definitely will have to adjust what we do," Hooper said. "We have different plays for each team, so I think we'll be fine."

Point guard Rachel Theriot had to emerge this season after the departure of Lindsey Moore, and she has according to Yori. Through the nonconference, she is averaging 12.1 points and 5.7 assists per game.

"She's taken a little more load," Yori said of Theriot. "She's got more to do. Her expectations are higher, and she's played a great floor game. She's been more aggressive, made shots when she's needed to, and it's kind of fun to watch her being more willing to take shots within the course of our offense but also take big shots."

Theriot was a secondary option last season for Nebraska. She still averaged 6.2 points per game, but she was not asked to be the focal point of the offense or to set up others as much as she is this season.

"We just don't have two play-makers like we did last year," Yori said. "Rachel's had to do more because of that, although I like what Tear'a (Laudermill) has done at times."

Laudermill has emerged as Nebraska's second scoring option at guard after projecting as a defensive specialist to begin the year.

"Her development in terms of playing with a good pace has been great," Yori said of Laudermill. "She was a high turnover, low assist player when she got here, and she's still not perfect, but that's a good step."

Confidence is the key to her transformation, according to Laudermill.

"Freshman, sophomore year I was like 'please go in, please go in,' but now I'm so much more confident," she said.

Jordan Hooper tips off against Creighton earlier this season.



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Looking to the Future

Majority of volleyball team will be back for coming years

Nebraska's eight freshmen, including back row from left: Kelly Hunter, Kadie Rolfzen, Kira Larson and Amber Rolfzen; and front row: Alexa Ethridge, Brenna Lyles, Justine Wong-Orantes, Melanie Keil will be back next season along with Mary Pollmiller, Cecilia Hall, Alicia Ostrander and Meghan Haggerty.



STORY BY CHRIS PETERS/ PHOTOS BY JOE MIXAN & MITCH OTTO

NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL HAS A LOT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2014. SURE, ALL-AMERICAN AND BIG TEN PLAYER OF THE YEAR KELSEY ROBINSON HAS GRADUATED, BUT THAT'S IT. EVERY OTHER STARTER AND SIGNIFICANT ROLE PLAYER RETURNS.

Of course, Robinson is a big one to lose. She accounted for almost one-third of the team's kills in 2013, led the team in aces and was 3 digs shy of the team lead.

The AVCA Player of the Year finalist had a stellar season at Nebraska. Though she won't be around to lead the team in 2014, her impact this season is rubbing off.

She and fellow-Tennessee transfer Mary Pollmiller brought together a team packed with freshmen and underclassmen and took them to the Elite Eight. Next season, they'll have to stand mostly on their own, with a senior Pollmiller still helping out as the team's setter.

Freshman phenom Kadie Rolfzen, an All-Big Ten pick at outside hitter, has noticed the team grow together after spending a season battling through the frustrations of being freshmen.

"I think this team, knowing we were able to gel together all being new, is definitely a bonus and a positive we can take away from this season," Rolfzen said. "Although, yeah, we lose (Robinson) next year, but it's nice to know that we are able to gel and have the team chemistry. We can only go up



Kelsey Robinson, far left, is the only Husker on the floor who won't return next season.

Women's Volleyball

from here.”

Nebraska finished second in the Big Ten, a conference that brought six teams to the Sweet 16 – a tournament record. The confidence of hanging with the nation's elite is only an added boost.

Both middle blockers – Meghan Haggerty and Cecilia Hall – return, along with top backup Melanie Keil, who played strong in relief in the NCAA Tournament. Libero Justine Wong-Orantes and serving specialists Alexa Ethridge and Brenna Lyles return too, joining twins Amber and Kadie Rolfzen, the outside hitters.

Kelly Hunter, will be a challenge to fit into the rotation in 2014, though coach John Cook was able to work her in as a second-string setter and a serving specialist in 2013. Once Pollmiller graduates after the 2014 season, the setter spot should be hers.

Then there's Robinson's spot. Kadie Rolfzen is expected to take over as the team's main left side hitter, but sister Amber will likely stay at right. Reserve Kelsey Fien will get her chance to step up as the second left side, with true freshman Olivia Boender coming in from Waverly (Neb.) High School with a legitimate chance to start.

“(Boender) can be a true six-rotation player and has a great opportunity to compete for a starting position next fall,” Cook said in a press release.

Robinson likes what she's seen out of the team. Amid the disappointment of a season-ending sweep to Texas at the Devaney Center, she saw the silver lining of a bright future in Lincoln.

“These freshmen are going to be amazing when they're seniors,” Robinson said, “So everybody better watch out when they're seniors because they're going to win it all.”

For a team that six months ago was staring around the court at a bunch of unfamiliar faces, that's a bold statement to make.

But there's a feeling the coaches and players have. The 2013 season wasn't supposed to be that successful. The young team wasn't supposed to beat Minnesota and Wisconsin twice. They weren't supposed to go to the Elite Eight.

If they can do it at 18 and 19 years old, why not 20?

Cook saw the potential for growth this season. They just have to keep it going.

“Seeing this team improve, this team has been a blast to coach,” Cook said. “...I've seen where we started and where we got to.”

The Huskers will play a brief sand volleyball season and a few spring games before they prepare for the 2014 indoor season. Nebraska's schedule will include a rematch with Texas in Lincoln and a renewed rivalry with Creighton.

Season Volleyball Stats

ATTACK (by K)	Sets	Kills	K/S	E	TA	Pct
Kelsey Robinson	119	530	4.45	146	1206	.318
Kadie Rolfzen	109	377	3.46	147	884	.260
Amber Rolfzen	114	244	2.14	107	721	.190
Meghan Haggerty	103	178	1.73	69	391	.279
Cecilia Hall	107	144	1.35	41	321	.321
Mary Pollmiller	119	102	0.86	25	244	.316
Kelsey Fien	21	47	2.24	26	130	.162
Melanie Keil	29	32	1.10	8	66	.364
Morgan Broekhuis	34	28	0.82	14	111	.126
Alicia Ostrander	21	19	0.90	9	42	.238
Justine Wong-Orantes	114	6	0.05	0	8	.750
Kelly Hunter	32	2	0.06	1	5	.200
Alexa Ethridge	99	1	0.01	0	2	.500
Brenna Lyles	112	0	0.00	0	1	.000
NEBRASKA.....	119	1710	14.37	593	4132	.270
OPPONENTS.....	119	1438	12.08	684	4119	.183

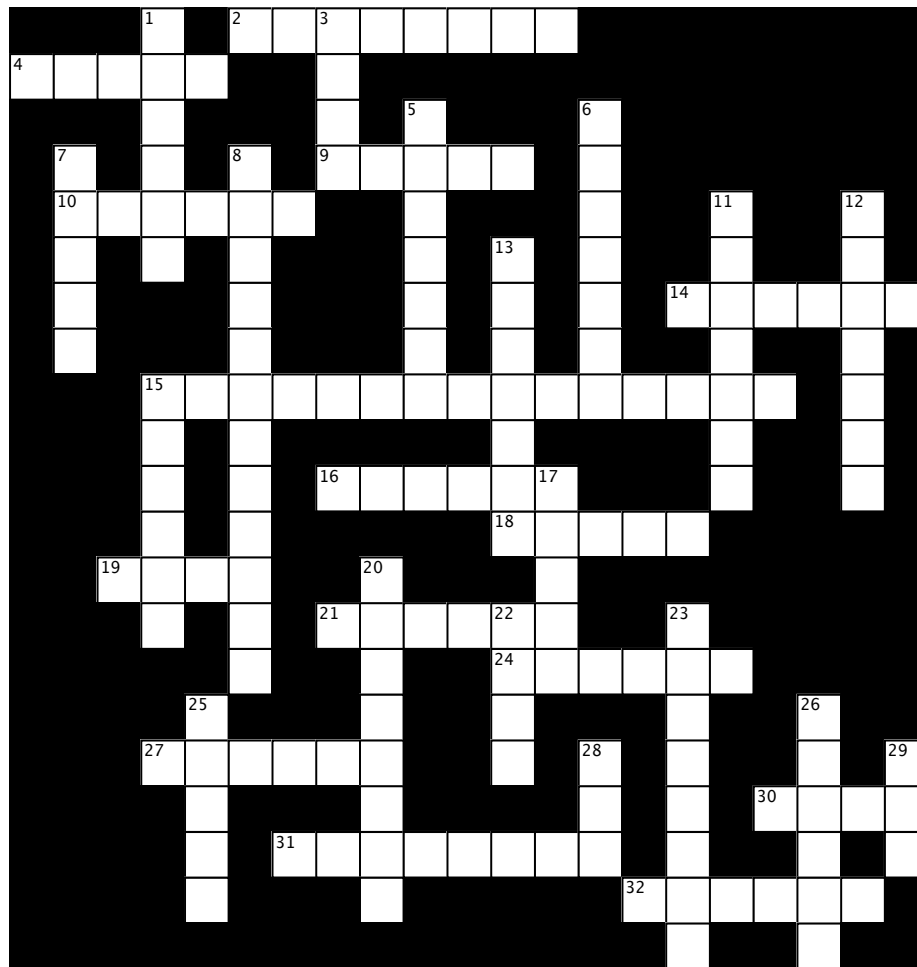
BLOCK (by Total)	Sets	BS	BA	Total	Blk/S	BE
Cecilia Hall	107	6	134	140.0	1.31	11
Meghan Haggerty	103	16	92	108.0	1.05	21
Amber Rolfzen	114	7	95	102.0	0.89	20
Kelsey Robinson	119	15	63	78.0	0.66	10
Mary Pollmiller	119	7	54	61.0	0.51	10
Kadie Rolfzen	109	12	48	60.0	0.55	14
Melanie Keil	29	2	27	29.0	1.00	3
NEBRASKA.....	119	69	538	338.0	2.84	96
OPPONENTS.....	119	46	398	245.0	2.06	70

SERVE (by SA)	S	SA	SE	SA/S
Kelsey Robinson,	119	32	60	0.27
Alexa Ethridge	99	21	23	0.21
Mary Pollmiller	119	18	31	0.15
Brenna Lyles	112	15	38	0.13
Justine Wong-Orantes	114	10	19	0.09

SET (by A)	S	A	A/S
Mary Pollmiller	119	1279	10.75
Justine Wong-Orantes	114	111	0.97
Kelly Hunter	32	65	2.03

DEFENSE (by Dig)	S	DIG	Dig/S	BHE
Justine Wong-Orantes	114	399	3.50	1
Kelsey Robinson	119	396	3.33	2
Kadie Rolfzen	109	285	2.61	1
Mary Pollmiller	119	232	1.95	11

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

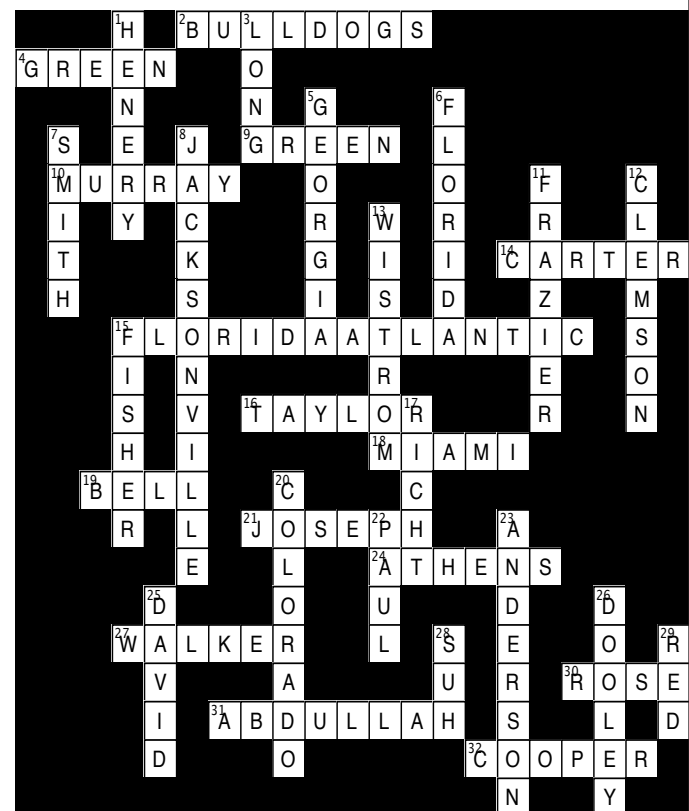
1. Number of NU bowl appearances
3. New Big Ten member on NU's 2014 schedule
6. 2003 All-America punter
11. Opponent in 2014 Big Ten opener
14. Quarterback who redshirted in 2013
15. Leader in passing yards in 2013
17. Tommy Armstrong's home state
19. Scored 2 touchdowns in Gator Bowl
21. 2013 Walk-on MVP
22. Associated Press third-team All-American
25. Had 2 sacks in Gator Bowl
28. Opponent in 2014 opener
30. 2016 non-conference opponent
31. Ex-Husker linebacker now with Tampa Bay Bucs
32. 2013 Tom Novak Trophy winner

DOWN

2. Ex-Husker entering College Football Hall of Fame
4. 2013 Guy Chamberlin Award winner
5. 2013 Bobby Reynolds Award winner
7. 2013 Cletus Fischer Native Son Award winner
8. NU's division in realigned Big Ten in 2014
9. Intercepted pass in Gator Bowl
10. Sack leader in 2013
12. Holds school record for touchdown catches in a season
13. Bo Pelini's number of bowl victories at NU
15. Ameer Abdullah's home state
16. Leading scorer in 2013
18. 2009 Outland Trophy winner
20. 2013 Lifter of the Year
23. Ex-Husker defensive back now with Chicago Bears
24. Kenny Bell's home state
26. 1992 Outland Trophy winner
27. Leading receiver (number of catches) in 2013
29. Leading tackler in 2013



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